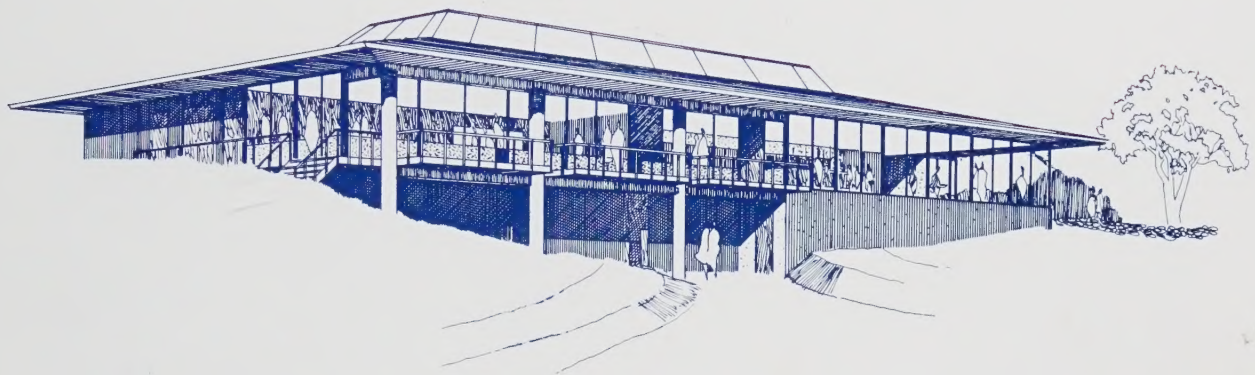

“Saint Andrews of the Pacific”



The Story of Astoria Golf and Country Club



Including:

Details of the Early Years
Recollections of Past Presidents
Oregon Coast Tournament History
Course & Tournament Records

1923 – 1993

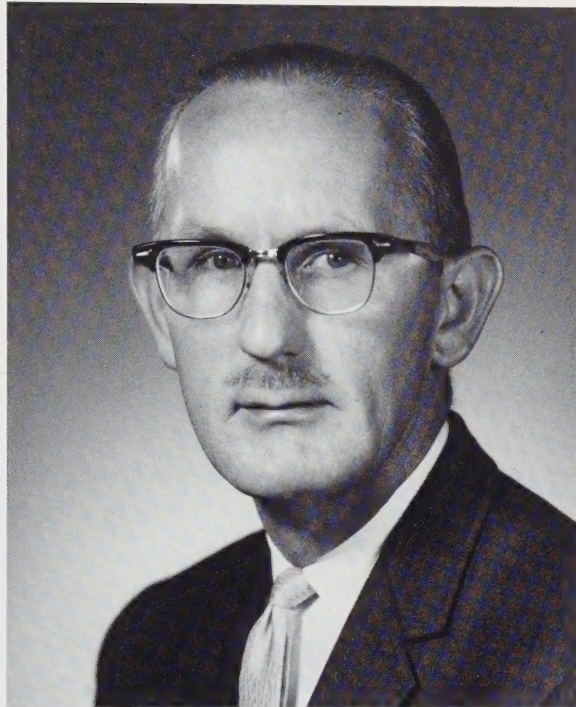
“Saint Andrews of the Pacific”

The Story of Astoria Golf and Country Club



1923 – 1993

Dedicated
to
Jorma Leinassar, M.D.
1919 –1986



*Whose interest and research prompted
this History of Astoria Golf and Country Club*

Compiled by
Stanley R. Church

Published by
The Board of Directors
Astoria Golf and Country Club
1993

Foreword

The story of the "*Saint Andrews of the Pacific*", which will be herein related, perhaps never would have been told had it not been that Dr. Jorma Leinassar devoted many hours, days and years collecting the material which forms much of the basis of the story between the covers of this book.

The project got underway in December of 1990 when I was approached by Rob Mangold in the closing days of his year as President. He asked if it would be possible for me to undertake the writing of the history of the club. I little then realized that most of my waking hours in the next few months would be taken up with the very pleasant work of making this book possible.

Dr. Leinassar's legacy was a mimeographed summary of the early days to 1936 and two cardboard boxes filled with memorabilia, scorecards, and records of other years. Further research was hampered by the loss of nearly all club records in the fire of 1968 which destroyed the clubhouse. This created a gap in club records from 1936 to the early 1970's. From that time on examination of the Board minutes has been made each year to the present and this search has been accomplished by a page by page reading of all pertinent material.

You and I will find errors and omissions as we read the story. Every effort has been made to avoid glaring errors of facts and events. I point out that I was trained as a lawyer and not in the field of historical writing.

I will be grateful if obvious errors are brought to light that such may be a part of the record available to the next person who is chosen to record the future history of the club. As for complaints, such will be dealt with in a summary fashion. They will be cast aside and the Board will be asked to nominate the complaining party as the next author of the history of the club.

I acknowledge with thanks the encouragement and cooperation which have been extended by the 1991, 1992 and 1993 Boards of Directors. And particular thanks to my friend and neighbor, Jim Wakefield, who was the liaison member of the Board. Jim read every word of the script as it developed and made many helpful suggestions which smoothed the way. And thanks to my old friend of some sixty-odd years, J.W. "Bud" Forrester, retired Editor of the Daily Astorian who graciously read and edited the copy, thus lending his knowledge gained in a lifetime spent in the publishing business. It is hoped that this provided a professional touch to an otherwise amateur effort. And my thanks to all the Past Presidents, and others, who contributed recollections of other years and events.

Melora Hitchman, Nancy Lane, and Dawn Ficken, the girls in the club office, were most helpful and my sincere thanks go to them for putting up with my requests and demands which had to be worked in with their other duties.

And thanks to all of you who will read this effort to capture the spirit of our great golf club. Each one of you had a part in creating this narrative. I hope you like it!

— Stanley R. Church

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In the Beginning

The year was 1923. Warren G. Harding was President and was soon to be succeeded by Calvin Coolidge. It was a time of peace and prosperity with stock exchange prices on the rise and business over the nation at all-time highs. The first World War had been over for five years and the world had been given to understand that this had been a conflict to "make the world safe for democracy." The 1920 census had counted 14,027 Astoria residents and by 1925 the number had risen to 16,353 by reliable estimates. It was time for some recreation in the form of golf and there were stirrings within the Astoria community for a golf facility they could call their own. Some Astorians had been active at Gearhart Golf Course which had been established in 1892, thus laying claim to the title of the oldest golf layout in the State of Oregon. This was an 18 hole course with grass fairways and grass greens, an almost unheard of luxury in the days when many courses could only furnish cow pasture fairways and sand greens. Many still play golf who can recall these sanded and oiled greens which had a piece of carpet attached to a broomstick. With this device one smoothed a path for the putt when finally reaching the green. The Seaside Golf Course came into being in 1922 so residents of the Lower Columbia now had an option of 18 at Gearhart or 9 at Seaside. The state of public highways in 1923 causes us to wonder if some of the early pioneers on these courses made use of the trains rather than hazard the trip over primitive roads and in vintage automobiles.



Charles W. Halderman in early model Lektro golf cart.

Many of the early Astoria golfers were active in both Gearhart and Seaside. The principal character in our story, Charles W. Halderman, led the field by winning the Gearhart Club championship on May 16, 1923.

There is no record in existence of the many informal meetings which must have been held in the Astoria business community during the years 1922-1923. But there certainly had been a lot of one on one meetings to sign up a considerable number of potential members prior to the first organized membership meetings. Halderman was the Astoria Postmaster and was also qualified as a lawyer. He was the moving spirit who got the project underway and off the ground. There is reference to a visit he made to Seattle in 1922 to visit with Nelson Troyer, who will later figure prominently in our story. There had been correspondence between the two regarding the creation of a golf facility for Astoria and Mr. Troyer furnished a copy of the by-laws of the Rainier Country Club of Seattle which club had been formed in 1919. These were used as guidelines to assist the Astoria group in perfecting their organization.

The informal meetings to secure the charter members now gave way to the first official get together. Articles of Incorporation had been filed in June 1923 with the value of assets owned by the corporation given as \$6,000.00.

The first open meeting is recorded in a story in the Astoria Evening Budget of June 1, 1923. It bears a headline stating: "Country Club is launched for Astoria." Founders are listed as J.E. Roman, A.C. Fulton and Charles W. Halderman. Eighty to one hundred members were expected to attend the meeting according to the news story. So the first meeting of what was to become Astoria Golf and Country Club was held in the Circuit Court room of the Clatsop County Courthouse on July 7, 1923. At this time officers and directors were elected. By this date one hundred and ten members had been signed and seventy five of this number attended this initial meeting. Space does not permit us to list all of these original members but we point out that several family names stand out to represent the second and third generations to grace the club roster. Among these you will recognize the names of Cellars, Lovell, Van Dusen, McGregor, Morfitt, Abrahamsen, Barbey, Fulton, Shaner, Palmberg. At this meeting Halderman was elected President and G.W. Utzinger was chosen as Secretary. Committees to deal with By-Laws and Finances were appointed. Trustees were elected and the machinery was in place to get moving with the acquisition of physical properties and equipment necessary to realize the objective of a golf course somewhere near Astoria. Another meeting was held on July 5th at which time the decision was made to limit the membership to 200. By this date 130 had been signed and by June 25, 1923 an additional eight names were added to the roll.

With formalities of organization out of the way it was time to begin the search for a suitable site. This would, of necessity, be of sufficient acreage to accommodate an eighteen hole course and with a terrain to make the course both interesting and playable. It was generally agreed that such a site should contain about one hundred and eighty acres. It is apparent that some previous study had gone into the possible locations for Marjorie Halderman, daughter of our Charley, writes on January 10, 1991 from her home in Astoria: "I have but a few memories of the actual meetings and founding days. But I do recall spending many days spent with Dad in our old Buick as we rode over the dunes and going all over searching for the eligible property for a golf course."

[illegible]

It might be of interest to relate a bit of history of the final selection of land. James W. Taylor had come over the Oregon Trail with the wagon train of 1845. He and his wife, Esther, filed on a Donation Land Claim of 640 acres of which our golf club is a part. The land ran east and west as the early settlers on Clatsop Plains had an informal agreement that all claims would run thus to assure that no one would monopolize the more fertile valleys between the sand dunes. The Taylors proved up on their claim and a patent for the land was signed by the President in 1870. E.A. Taylor was the present owner of the land and we can assume that he was a grandson of the pioneers who settled the property.

On the same date an option was obtained to purchase additional land to round out what was thought necessary for the proper layout of the projected 18 hole course. This tract was property owned by the Glenwood Cranberry Company and consisted of forty acres to the north and immediately adjacent to the Taylor tract. We assume that this land was in the general area of the ninth tees along Neacoxie Creek. This was to be purchased for \$8,000 of which \$2,500 was to be in cash and the balance to be secured by a promissory note for \$5,500 at six per cent per year due in five years after August 1, 1923, with payment secured by a first mortgage.

Map of tracts combined to create the Golf Course

**#1 looking west,
circa early 1920's.**

**Note there are no
trees on fairways.**



Pro Mike Gove on #1, 1993.

**Today's fairways are lined
mostly with Coast Pines
planted in 1951.**

Development of the Golf Course

With the site of the future golf course chosen and arrangements made with the owners of the land to purchase the necessary acreage, the next step was to start the development of the physical plant and fairways and greens. Very early in the planning stages, and before formal organization had been completed, an offer had been made by R.R. Bartlett, then manager of the Port of Astoria, to draw the plans for the projected clubhouse and that he would provide his services as an architect without charge. By the fall of 1923 Bartlett had completed plans and specifications for the facility and the club was ready to submit these to contractors for bids to get construction of the building underway.

In this period of golfing history there appears to have been no qualified golf architects and firms engaged in the sole business of adapting terrain to the game of golf. This was to come later with such as Robert Trent Jones, Jack Nicklaus and his Associates, to name a couple. But at a special meeting of the Board of Directors on June 24, 1923, the President and Secretary were authorized to employ the services of R.C. "Jack" Asbury, purported to be a golf course architect and engineer, to lay out the golf course on the ground selected by the membership. Mr. Asbury was also declared to be a wealthy amateur

golfer in his own right in addition to his other talents. Compensation for his work was to be a lifetime membership in the club, without payment of dues or membership fees, together with his actual expenses incurred in his work in laying out the future Astoria course. When he had completed his survey and made his suggested plan available to the Board he had laid out the links with the fairways running east and west, thus making most play across and over the top of the rolling sand dunes of the property. This plan was not acceptable to President Halderman and the Board, so subsequently Halderman and George Junor, the first greenskeeper, laid out the course in its present north and south direction between the dunes. To pinpoint some of the problems had the Asbury design been adopted is the case of No. 2 hole. The original green was beyond the crest of the hill in the hollow behind the present No. 2 green and adjacent to the No. 16 green. The green was moved to its present location at the top of the hill after a lady golfer, a Mrs. Dimond, had been hit on the head by an errant ball while on the putting green. A flag system on a tall pole had been in use to indicate when players had left the green. Apparently it was decided that such an arrangement offered too much risk for those playing the course and the present arrangement for the play on No. 2 was instituted as it is today.



#3 – Looking South – A Golfing Adventure!

One of the factors that led to the selection of the Taylor tract was the availability of water for domestic use as well as sprinkling. In November 1923, an agreement was signed between the club and the City of Warrenton to furnish a three inch line with a connection opposite the north half of the Taylor land claim. For this service the club was obligated to pay \$20.00 per month with a contract to run five years. Water could be used for both drinking and irrigating but there was to be no sprinkling between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. The original watering system was for greens and aprons only, but did include a number of drinking fountains located near the sixth green, between the twelfth green and thirteenth tee and near the fifteenth tee.

No sprinkling was done during the summer months and the fairways became very hard and dry for about three months. In 1931 the club spent \$600.00 for steel pipe to carry water from the No. 9 tee to the 12th tee. The original course also had immense stands of Scotch Broom and blackberries lining some of the fairways making holes such as No. 3 and No. 15 very difficult. Modern power equipment enables the greens crew to keep down these natural hazards. In those days it had to be done by hand, if at all. With reference to #3 we might add that many consider this a great hole with the steep hillsides covered with long grass, the narrow fairway and a seductive trap alongside the green. Certainly it is unique to say the least. Over the years some legends have been built around this golfing adventure which bear repeating. It is said that one guest came up to the third tee, surveyed the challenge ahead and remarked: "That's probably the only golf hole in the world where you have to walk down the fairway in single file." The other story arises in the depression years and came from a lad who was reared in that era in Astoria. It seems the club was in dire straits financially and couldn't afford the cost of labor to clear the hillsides of No. 3 of Scotch Broom and blackberries. There was no work for the kids in Astoria and to pick up two bits for putting in a load of wood was a real bonanza. So the club and the kids made a deal. On Saturday the youths would come out and clear the hillsides and were to be paid 10¢ for every ball they might find. As the story goes this lad reported many years later: "That day I found 81 golf

balls and with \$8.10 in my pockets I was the richest kid in Astoria."

Early photos show that there were few trees on the sandy dunes or lining the flat areas selected for fairways. To correct this situation it was arranged to secure 100 Cypress trees from California. In addition a supply of Cypress seedlings was obtained. Perhaps this was an attempt to make our course similar to Cypress Point near Monterey. But the Cypress didn't do too well and only six survive. (Count 'em and name the location!) In later years a tree planting program was instigated with a test planting of alders but these died out and the present beach or coast pines were used and this has proved successful as you may judge for yourself the next time you land in a tree bordered fairway.

Seeing the need for watering on the fairways a system of using portable pipe was utilized for about ten years until an underground system was installed in 1958 to use water from Neacoxie Lake and Neacoxie Creek.

In July, 1926, the Board gave consideration to filling in the 9th fairway along Neacoxie Creek to bring the ground up to the present level and avoid flooding. It was later in that same year that the men's ninth tee was moved across the creek. Until this time the present ladies tee had been used by both men and women. To make the new tee accessible it was decided to build a bridge across the stream. This served for a number of years until washed out by high water and the present fill was constructed to provide access. Mechanization was also improving for in 1927 the club purchased a new Toro tractor, sweeper and roller. George Harvey came to work for the Club in 1927 and later became head greenskeeper and club manager. It is also said that he filled in, from time to time, as bartender and also "tended the store" in the pro shop when needed. The pro shop at that time was just inside the main entrance to the clubhouse and adjacent to the men's locker room.

Over the years the layout of the club was constantly improved by the addition of roadways and access trails from tee to green in many areas. Many of these original improvements are now followed by the cart paths which became necessary with the coming of the motorized golf



#8 – A Picturesque Hole



Lektro carts still in operation and modern vehicle, looking west from 18th fairway, 1992.

car we know today. Fertilizers first came into use on fairways in 1949 under the direction of President Chester W. Laughlin and Greenskeeper George Harvey.

As previously stated, the first greenskeeper was one George Junor who had come from Waverley in Portland. He became an employee of the club in 1923 to direct operations of developing the raw land into a golf course. It is apparent that he must have spent a busy year moving dirt, constructing and planting fairways and greens, and shaping the dunes into a playable 18 holes based on the concept that he and Halderman had agreed on to follow the natural terrain which had been originally shaped by sand, wind and sea.

His original tasks were completed; the official opening ceremonies were scheduled to be held a scant nine months following the original organizational meetings.

On February 13, 1924 the Astoria Evening Budget stated that construction was in good progress and the "course is laid out with the greens in good condition and

work on the clubhouse is well underway and soon will be under cover." A further news item on May 7, 1924 called attention to the forthcoming opening. The Budget on June 12, 1924 reported in a headline: "Formal Opening of Golf Club Saturday." The story said: "The formal opening of Astoria Golf and Country Club golf course will be held on Saturday, June 14th, beginning at 9:00 in the morning. Members of the club, their ladies and invited friends will participate. Light refreshments will be served and the Bungalow Orchestra will be present during the afternoon and early evening so that dancing as well as golf playing will be included in the program."

Among those in the first foursome off the tee was Frank Berg, an Astoria druggist, whose estate provided the funds for the present patio adjoining the clubhouse and the 10th tee. Astoria Golf and Country Club was a reality and was off the tee and running!

Finances

With options to purchase in hand the necessary land secured it was now necessary to find a source of capital to develop the golf course. So in July of 1923 the Board met and the Finance Committee reported that the Astoria Savings Bank would loan \$7,500.00 at seven per cent interest per year, payable quarterly, this note to be secured by a mortgage on the lands and fixtures of the corporation. It is interesting to note that payments were to be made in gold coin of the United States at the current value of 1923 and that interest would also be in the gold species. A week later another meeting was held at which time the options were reviewed and it was ordered the lands be purchased at the prices set forth earlier in this review.

The initiation fee had been set at \$275.00 and dues were to be \$5.00 per month, this latter sum was to be continued for many years and only changing with fluctuations of the economy and the pressures of inflation in later years.



Advertisement for the locally-built Lektro Golf Cart, around 1961. Models on the 18th green are Jean Sandoz and Margaret Hendrickson. Also shown is Charles W. Halderman, standing near cart.



#9 Hole - Then.

**Note old Clubhouse
in distance.**



#9 Hole - Now.

**Note growth of spruce
tree facing men's tee.**

But the club moved ahead with improvements during these early years. In 1926 a ten ton roller was purchased for \$1,000.00 which was financed by a further borrowing from Astoria Savings Bank. By the time the second annual meeting was held green fees had been posted at \$2.00 per day. And in 1926 a time payment plan for memberships was introduced which provided terms of \$75.00 down and \$10.00 per month plus monthly dues of \$5.00. An addition to the ladies locker room was ordered which was to cost \$850.00 and new septic tanks were to be activated, all of this to be financed by further borrowing in the amount of \$1,500.00 from Astoria Savings Bank.

By mid-1929 there was a need to devise some plan to refinance the E.A. Taylor and Astoria Savings Bank mortgages. Perhaps some inklings of the depression to come might have been observed as green fees were reduced to \$1.00 per day.

There were two Board meetings in October of 1929 and it was at this time that a decision was reached to borrow \$16,000.00 from Nelson Troyer of Seattle, identified as a former Astorian, the proceeds from this loan to cover the Taylor and Savings Bank obligations.

Perhaps at this point in our story we should add an additional sub-head and label it "The Depression

Years." "Black Friday" had come on the land in October of 1929, and the stock market collapsed, and the United States and the civilized world were thrown into an economic tailspin the like of which the economy had never before experienced. Soon breadlines were forming, people were losing their jobs every day, and times were tough all over. Astoria Golf and Country Club was no exception and soon membership losses and reduced play brought critical times to its front door.

In June of 1930 green fees were set at \$1.00 per day during the week and \$2.00 on weekends and holidays. A special letter to members in November, 1930 advised all hands of the financial condition of the club and green fees were reduced to 50¢. By October, 1931, the club had approximately \$1,000.00 left after meeting the payroll, but by January, 1932, only \$940.00 in cash remained on hand. But there must have been brave fellows on that Board for a month later there was a purchase of \$600.00 worth of steel pipe to place a new water line from the ninth to twelfth tee.

At the October, 1932, Board meeting the current bills were ordered paid if and when funds became available. And in April of 1933 the delinquent accounts were turned over to a collection agency at an agreed rate of 10% of the recovery.

Fire struck at the club in June of 1933 when the greenskeeper's house and the adjoining tool shed were completely destroyed. Both had been insured for \$2,500.00 but would require at least \$1,500.00 to replace. By September bids had been let for the rebuilding, the tool shed for \$670.00 and the greenskeeper's house for \$1,460.00.

The financial picture in January of 1934 worsened and it was decided to take warrants on outstanding accounts so these might be applied on light bills. And that same year the Austin roller was sold to pay \$202.50 interest owed the Prouty Lumber Co., the original indebtedness amounting to \$92.40.

In March of 1934 the club bank account was moved to the First National Bank of Astoria due to the closure of the Astoria Savings Bank. And in June of that year the decision was reached to drop all delinquent members who were in arrears to \$50.00 or more.

The club limped along with the rest of the economy until 1936. In February dues were changed and for a payment of \$4.00 per month plus tax a certificate of membership would be issued. As there was some concern from the creditors holding the mortgages Sherman Lovell was to contact Nelson Troyer of Seattle about the indebtedness which was now reduced to \$13,500.00.

At the Board meeting on February 12, 1936, Charles W. Halderman tendered his resignation as President, having served continuously since the formation of the club in 1923. Sherman Lovell was nominated and elected to take his place.

Negotiations must have gone on for about five months with regard to the mortgage indebtedness for at a Board meeting of July 24, 1936 Lovell reported that he had received a letter from Troyer offering to settle the balance for \$10,000.00.

The financial picture of the club at this period in the middle of the depression years was as black as the economic cloud which hung over most of the world. The decision reached at a Board meeting on July 24, 1936 was one of the most far reaching solutions in the history of the club. Had the effort not been successful, it might have turned out that we would not be playing our beautiful course today. With banks and business ventures reporting failure and closures nearly every day, the Astoria Country Club might well have been one of the casualties of the times. At this meeting President Lovell proposed that twenty men put up \$500.00 each with the money earmarked to retire the mortgage indebtedness owed Troyer. The notes were dated June 1, 1937 and were made out to "Bearer." There were nineteen notes for the full amount of \$500.00 and four for \$250.00. The obligations were secured by a mortgage on the property owned by the club and C.W. Utzinger was named as Trustee. No interest rate was mentioned in the documents but reference was made to such in the mortgage. All were negotiable and could be assigned by delivery but only after the signature of the Trustee.

The notes were duly signed, the money paid, and the existing mortgage was retired in the amount of \$10,000.00 as previously agreed with Troyer. The final

disposition of these notes is another story. You will find the answer later on when Graham Barbey tells of his years as President in 1950-52.

The First Clubhouse

The old Taylor residence had been moved off the property. At one time it had been thought that this would serve as a nucleus for a facility to house the social side of the club and provide the utilitarian feature necessary as an adjunct to golf play.

It will be remembered that R.C. Bartlett, manager of the Port of Astoria, who also qualified as an Architect, was preparing plans and specifications in the fall of 1923. By November the word was getting around in the construction business that such a building was almost ready for bids. By January 10, 1924 a letter was sent to several North Coast building contractors informing them that plans were ready and that bids would be accepted and the opening scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 1924.

These plans called only for labor in construction of the building. Material was to be furnished by the club. Four firms entered bids and the contract was awarded the low offering of \$3,371.27 by W.C. Wickline. Excavation was not included nor were any provisions made in this contract for wiring, heating and plumbing, painting, but did include some extras for essential functions which were made easier if performed during the actual construction. The site selected at the top of the ridge where our present clubhouse is located needed only slight areas of excavation for footings and piers. The club was to have the material delivered convenient to the site.

The contract with Wickline was signed on January 26, 1924 at the agreed fee, with work to be completed by May 1, 1924. On March 29, 1924 Bartlett was informed by Wickline that the clubhouse was now enclosed and under roof entitling him to the first of two payments due at this stage of construction under the contract.

Bids soon followed for interior and exterior painting as well as the necessary electrical work. Plumbing and heating was in the hands of Arne Abrahamsen, whose son, George, is still active in the club. A used furnace from a building in Astoria was obtained which worked out very satisfactorily.

After completion of the clubhouse Wickline built a house for the greenskeeper and later a machinery shed. Ten years later, 1933, he rebuilt the same house and a tool shed after a fire had leveled them to the ground.

Improvements to the grounds and the clubhouse proceeded from time to time after construction of the principal building. Landscaping of the hillsides was commenced in 1925 around the clubhouse. In 1928 an addition was built to the north side of the building for additional rooms and an addition to the ladies locker room. In 1947 an addition was made to the dining room with large windows overlooking the 18th green. The original driveway to the entrance had an exceptionally steep



The Old Clubhouse – 1924-1968

Photo by Gladys Church

grade which was alleviated by a sand fill which made the turn around much easier. Ladies had been complaining of spoiled hairdos in walking from the parking lot to the entrance so, in 1951, a port-o-cher was added over the front door. Lastly, in that same year there was a major remodeling of the kitchen, a new bar wing in the southwest corner and the ladies locker room remodeled. The clubhouse was to remain in this form until a major remodeling project was undertaken and completed in 1968 just prior to the fire which wiped out the old clubhouse and brought about the construction of our present facility which was opened in 1970.

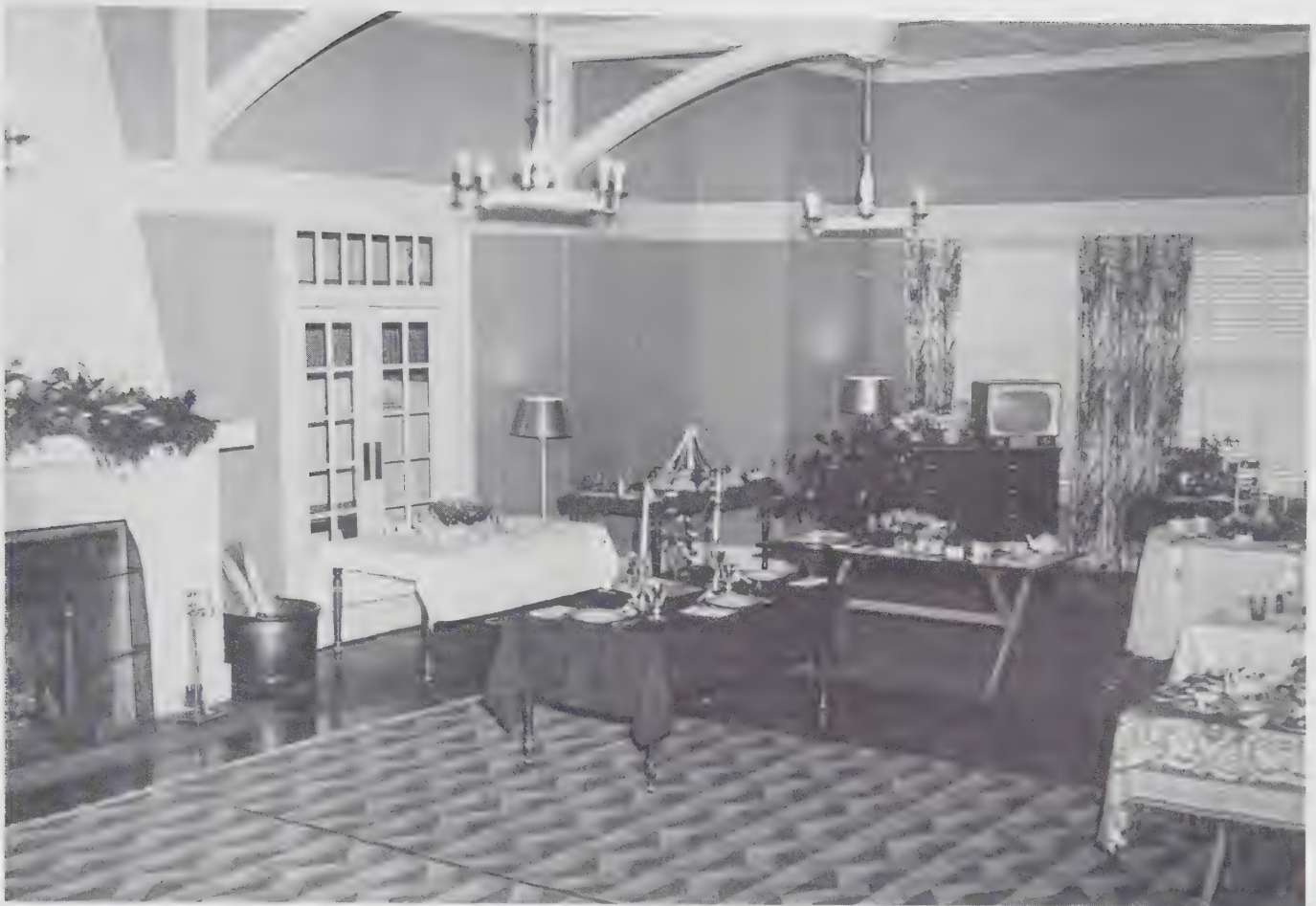
Membership

At the time of the organization meetings in 1923 a total of one hundred eighteen members had been signed up for the projected golf course. But many of these were to be financed on a time payment plan and no certificate would be issued until such time as payments would be complete. Original plans were that membership was to be limited to two hundred but this total was far in the future. Certificate number 100 was not issued until January, 1926. Growth was slow in the next few years. With some of the enthusiasm for the new venture to attract them, ten new members came in during 1926 but only three were added in 1927. Jorma Leinassar reports in his historical notes that there were five members added to the roll in 1928, and that one was the first woman proprietary member, Georgia Ekstrom. Growth continued slow as the club stepped gingerly into the depression. Two in 1929, three in 1930, five came into the fold in 1931, six sought to join in 1932 and only one in 1933. Three were added to the roster in 1934 but none

in 1935, 1936 and 1937. With the club in dire straits financially at this period of time it would appear a membership drive was held in 1938 bringing forty-four new golfers to the ranks. As the war years came on in 1939-1946 there was a lull in membership as divulged by the fact that certificate No. 163 was issued on June 30, 1938. But No. 164 was not issued until June 26, 1946. Certificate No. 200 was issued to Past President Graham Barbey on September 20, 1946. This would indicate a surge of interest among returning veterans and those freed of wartime restrictions such as gas rationing and travel restraints.

A couple of sidelights to show the tenor of the times. The late Al Grimberg recalled in 1974 that he joined in 1925 but did not receive his certificate until issued in 1934 taking ten years to pay at \$6.75 per month of which \$3.00 was applied on membership. He also recalled this entitled him to a wooden locker and the privilege of taking a shower at the club. Frank Berg, another early member, also reminisced in 1974 that "those were the good old days. Knickers, can't remember what kind of shoes, I think tennis, wooden shaft clubs with small heads, but lots of fun."

The quotation from Dr. Leinassar's note on membership that one Georgia Ekstrom had been enrolled as the first woman proprietary member perhaps needs some explanation as it relates to the annual meeting held in December 1990. After several months work by a special committee, a new by-law was submitted to the membership which deleted all reference to gender and it appeared that woman members of Astoria Golf and Country Club would now share all the rights of ownership in memberships which had heretofore been available only to males. Let us look at the original by-laws.



The Lounge – Old Clubhouse

These by-laws provided for seven classes of membership in addition to regular members, among which were (e) Women members and (f) Wives of members. Women members must be 21 years of age or over and could acquire Associate Membership. The widow of any deceased regular member, when the instrument was not otherwise disposed of by Will, may have her husband's certificate transferred to her. She also might become an Associate Women member, or she had the option to become a Women member. The by-laws then go on to state in Section 6 as follows: "Such Associate women members shall have the same rights and privileges reserved and granted regular members under the provisions of Sections 5 and 6 or Article 1 of these by-laws."

Examination of the records available in the period of the late 1920's reveal several women availed themselves of the privilege of membership in the club. In addition to the Georgia Ekstrom, mentioned previously, we have Certificate No. 120 dated March 29, 1929 which certifies that Ada F. Griffin is a regular member of the club. The city directory of that year reveals she was the wife of John D. Griffin and we assume she acquired the certificate by transfer from his estate. In 1928 a certain Eva Holmes is cited in Board minutes that her res-

ignation as an active member be accepted. There is a further entry in Board minutes noting a letter from an Astoria attorney asking that the membership of Dr. Jay Tuttle, MD, be transferred to a Nancy Gardner who is not otherwise identified. Dr. Tuttle had died in 1923 and our best guess nearly 65 years later is that this was part of the asset distribution upon the closing of his estate.

We hope to have put to rest the matter of gender in club memberships, and hope we may go forward in the future with the 1990 by-law operative and functioning on behalf of both sexes.



Watercolor by Arvid Wuonola, depicting the original Clubhouse as it was in 1924.



From the Early Records to the Present

To this point, most of this story has been based on material gathered or compiled by Dr. Jorma Leinassar, including interviews he had with early day members of the club. We have also had access to a minute book of the board of directors dating from September 1923 to June 1936. How it escaped the fire of 1968 is unknown. It gives insight into the formative years and into the depression years. From this time on there is a gap as all records were lost in the fire of 1968, and no records of Board meetings or club activities are available until the 1970's.

Priceless Recollections

We have asked the help of past presidents and members who were here during the war period to complete the record of the missing years. In the office of the club there is a file drawer of minutes of board meetings. We have been through each file, page by page, seeking to find items of interest which will add to this history. So what follows in these pages will be a compilation of personal recollections, material from the search of board minutes, and every other source which might add to the nearly three quarters of a century of club history. We will try to take it year by year to show the development of the "St. Andrews of the Pacific" on Clatsop Plains.

1923

Initial meetings held at Courthouse in Astoria. Each member was to ante \$200 into a fund which apparently was to accumulate working capital to get the golf course under way. Decided on a limit of membership at 200. Seven classes of memberships were to be offered and this included a category of Army and Navy. It should be noted that Fort Stevens was then an active military installation. Those in the military were to pay \$10 per month. Regular memberships were \$275 with dues set at \$5 per month and these rates applied to both men and women applicants. Non-resident membership was set as \$50 initiation and \$4 monthly dues.

1924

The course opened for play in June of this year. There is a small card still in the records which lists the by-laws of the club and then sets the rules:

No dogs were to be allowed on the course, grounds or links.

No paper, notice, placard, picture or other things written or printed shall be put up in the Club House without permission of the House Committee.

No horses, automobiles, or bicycles are to be allowed on the grounds except in such places there on as maybe designated by the Greens Committee.

Under no circumstances shall members or visitors give any gratuity to any employee of the club. Should services of the employee outside their prescribed duties be required, arrangement may be made with the appropriate committee and a charge will be made to the member and the employee properly compensated. The strict enforcement of this rule is essential to the proper management of the club.

All requests and complaints shall be made in writing and addressed to the Secretary of the club, and he shall submit them to the next meeting of the Directors. In no case shall a servant be reprimanded by a member.

Shoes bearing nails or metal of any kind on the soles are strictly prohibited in the Club House, as well as on the greens on the Golf Course. (What did they wear? Tennis Shoes?)

No children under 12, unaccompanied by an adult, will be admitted to the Club House or grounds. Also no children may be left in the Club House alone.

Once a week on weekdays and once a month on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, "Seaside Day" was held to interest golfers of that city to become members.

1925

This was the year when the No. 2 green was moved from below the embankment to its present location. This was a move of some 40 yards and the board gave approval for the project with the provision that the cost should not exceed \$300. In the same year there was also a project to clear brush along the creek on No. 9. This was not to exceed a cost of \$275.

A time payment plan was instituted. Memberships were still to be \$275 but under this plan the sum of \$25 was to accompany the application and dues were to be \$5.50 per month plus tax.

Took a loan for improving and grading Sunset Beach Road from highway entrance of the club. Highway 101 was then called Columbia. Also graded road from Sunset Beach Road to club grounds.

1926

Board agreed to join Pacific Northwest Golf Association and also Oregon Golf Association. Dues in the latter association were \$25 per year. Records show that Astoria did not actually become a part of O.G.A. until 1938.

Paid Clatsop County \$227.45 for overage cost in improving road to entrance of the club.

Joined with Astoria Rotary Club for an invitational tournament at AGCC to raise funds for crippled children

1927

Bought a Toro tractor, gang mower and side hill mower for \$2,110. Made a deal to recover \$700 from trade-in for old mower.

1928

Employed George Beer as new pro. He was to get \$100 per month as salary. Also to receive \$50 per month from money received for club care. If this latter fund was not sufficient the club was to make up the difference. He was to provide an assistant satisfactory to the greens committee but the record is silent as to who was to pay the assistant. The minutes show that Beer got a \$50 raise in the same year.

The board passed a resolution approving the posting of members' names when accounts were delinquent. But the same delinquent members were offered the opportunity to continue as members by giving a note for the amount owed, plus 7% interest. Greens fees were still \$2 per day.

1929

The tournament committee was allowed not to exceed \$50 for expenses of tournaments held during the year.

The directors authorized the issuance of guest cards to friends of members to be honored until April 1, 1930. Greens fees reduced to \$1 per day.

1930

With the depression closing in the membership received a letter offering three options designed to ease the financial crunch: 1. Reduce greens fees to 50 cents. 2. An assessment of the membership. 3. Raise dues to \$7.50 per month. The majority decided on the 50 cent green fee, on a temporary basis, but regular members could not use this in lieu of paying regular dues.

Resignations, expulsions and delinquent accounts were showing up at all meetings of the board.

Associate memberships approved. Provided for a \$50 initiation fee and same dues as regular members. All money derived from these memberships was to be kept in a separate account and earmarked for the water system. These memberships conferred all the rights of regular members except that they had no vote in club affairs.

The course was opened to the public this summer and greens fees were set at \$1 per day. As play declined in the winter months the board set green fees at 50 cents. This was in lieu of the raise in dues or assessment. Green fees totalled \$235.50 in November.

1931

A well deserved honor came to Charles Halderman on July 16, 1931 when the board voted him an Honorary Life Membership. If any person can be called the founder of Astoria Golf and Country Club certainly he earned that title. His record of service to the club and

the game of golf goes back to the early stirrings of Astorians seeking a course of their own. And an examination of the early records and meetings of the original members shows that it was Charles Halderman who put the entire project together and kept it on track over his years of stewardship. Up to that point in time no one else had served as president and the Honorary Membership was past due considering the service he had rendered to the club.

We have previously related that the pro shop was located in the original clubhouse. We have also learned that there were periods during the depression years when the club dispensed with the service of a resident professional. There was still a pro shop and someone had to tend the store for such sales as golf balls and accessories. The need was met when the club janitor was pressed into service to handle such sales as might be made in the pro shop. He was paid \$145 per month for his dual role as janitor and salesman. On his day off each week George Harvey was brought in from the greens crew to handle the pro shop.

1932

The depression had worsened by the time 1932 rolled around and there were darker days ahead. The board wrestled with the problems of delinquent accounts, resignations and all the attendant problems that arose from reduced income from memberships and golfing fees. There was serious discussion of cutting salaries of employees as one means of stemming the flow of red ink. Whether action was taken on this suggestion there is no record. But this very thing was happening on all sides in every line of human endeavor.

The plain fact was apparent that income was not sufficient to cover expenses as collections were slow and many members were delinquent in their accounts. The board undertook a program which would have board members make personal calls to those behind in payments, hoping that this would improve the cash flow.

The original \$16,000 mortgage on the club properties held by Nelson Troyer of Seattle was in arrears and there seemed no way payments could be made current. The board played it straight with Troyer, explaining the financial picture of the club and he indicated he would expect them to do their best and would go along with any plan that might provide a solution to the problem.

1933

At almost all meetings of the board in 1933 the principal subjects under discussion were how to cut expenses and past due accounts. Retrenchments were considered in the operation of the lunch room but this facility was only serving sandwiches and snacks during the day with no dinners. So those savings must have been minor.

There was considerable discussion of a suggestion that someone be employed to follow up on past due accounts. The secretary was authorized to enter a deal for collections with a Mr. Burnham at a rate not to exceed 10%.

The secretary was also ordered to pay Gus Hellberg (an Astoria druggist) \$5 for tournament pleasure. (Now what was that for?)

In spite of all the problems there was a report to the board on June 15, 1933 that "the general condition of the club was in comparatively good shape."

1934

At a meeting held early in the year the decision was reached that the club would accept warrants on past due accounts as those promises to pay could be applied on the light bill. It was also decided that monies in the building fund would be used to pay current bills. A bill from Standard Oil Company is mentioned as one to be paid from the building fund account.

The board determined that henceforth all members who were in arrears to the club for more than \$50 would be dropped from the membership rolls and be so notified.

1935

There were apparently problems with mortgages on the properties of the club. President Halderman was authorized to confer with such persons as he saw fit to refinance this obligation.

The matter of punch boards at the clubhouse was a topic of board discussion. It appears these had been available and that some losses had been incurred from the operation. But the consensus of opinion was that the punch boards should be "in evidence" for those who cared to use them.

In an effort to stimulate golf play postal cards were to be sent out to all persons who might be interested in golf and, as a further inducement, that two tickets be enclosed good for greens fees. This plan was thought to be a way to stimulate interest in golf.

In July a special meeting was called to explain the financial picture of the club. Main topic of discussion was seeking means to keep members, lure back those who had strayed, and devise means of attracting new golfers. A part of this discussion centered around a proposal which would allow women and youngsters to play the course without green fees on Mondays and Tuesdays. This plan was authorized by the board.

1936

In February of this year Charles W. Halderman tendered his resignation as president of the club, having served since 1923. There is no question that he was the spark who brought about organization of the club and presided faithfully and well over the affairs of the organization, building what is one of the best golf layouts in the Western United States. His fellow members had already honored him with the life membership and there were few additional honors they might bestow on him. To succeed him as president, members elected Sherman W. Lovell, an Astoria auto dealer, who would lead the club to new heights in the golfing world.

The mortgage with Nelson Troyer was now reduced to \$13,500 but the club was in arrears in payments. The board determined to be in touch with him and try to work out some plan to solve the financial dilemma.

There was discussion in board meetings about installing slot machines in the clubhouse bar. After mulling the situation they decided that if such machines were so placed they should be owned and operated by the club.

March of 1936 found the country still in the grips of the depression. At a board meeting that month it was decided to pay the current bill for electric power and that an additional sum of \$10 per month should be applied on the past due account.

Dues were reduced to be in tune with the times. Now they were to be \$4 per month and the entire family of a member would be entitled to play. It was further decreed that single girls would be entitled to play the course for \$2.50 per month. Free play was to be offered to any legitimate high school student. Green fees were reduced to \$1 beginning April 1.

There was some demand from local clubs and organizations to use the clubhouse for social gatherings. This was permitted and has been continued. But the fee has changed materially as the board decision in 1936 was that a charge would be made of \$15 for such use and the club would pay for the clean-up after the party.

The early day record book which somehow survived the years and the fire has given us much material on which our story has been based. The last entry is dated June 22, 1936. So from that point forward, until we reach the modern era of the 1960s, we will be compelled to rely on memories, records, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia which can only be supplied by some of our members who were active in club affairs through the last stages of the depression, into the war years and beyond.

But before leaving the early history of our club we will briefly outline some history of golf in Oregon. This was found in the minute books and appears to have come from some golf publication which is not named. Here is the order of club foundings with name of club, number of holes and date. Gearhart (18) 1893; Waverley, Portland (18) 1896; Baker (9) 1911; Tualatin, Portland (18) 1912; Pendleton (9) 1913; Salem (18) 1914; Eugene (18) 1914; Portland Golf Club (18) 1915; University of Oregon Campus, Eugene (9) 1916; Corvallis (9) 1919; Albany (9) 1921; The Dalles (9) 1922; Hood River (9) 1922; Seaside (9) 1922; Rose City, Portland (18) 1923; Astoria (18) 1923.

Filling in the Gaps

Due to the loss of records in the fire of 1968 we made an appeal to those who were members in the 1940s for items of interest during the missing years. We had the following response from Nancy Lowe (Mrs. Gene), whose grandfather, G.C. Fulton, and father, A.C. Fulton, both prominent attorneys, were charter members of the club and worked with Charley Halderman in the organizing days. Nancy relates the following:

"Gene and I joined the club about 1946, so our recollections are from there. About the same time a local dance club was formed called the Tanse (Indian for dance), and I know we had many dances held at our country club, probably as a rental. Later the Country Club started having their own dances and "Tanse" dwindled. I'm sure we helped out financially to boost the AGCC. At the time each member had their own bottle at the Club, with a number, from which we ordered our drinks. Also slot machines were readily available in the back room.

"The gals (and we were then) put on the annual stagette which always gathered a full house. Fred Peschel and Nick Mardesich (and maybe help from wife, Phillipa) were also chefs during those years, but not as partners. One followed the other and I think Fred Preschel later took over as chef at the Crab Pot.

"Florence Kerbel, Carol Woodridge and I wrote a news and gossip monthly called We Three and we did that for about three years or so.

"Dale Christensen was bartender for quite a long time in those days and everyone really liked him – he was the greatest. I believe he was later married rather briefly to Faye Olson, widow of pianist Russ Olson. Which reminds me that during those years the Rotary Follies of Astoria, with Russ as accompanist, put on some of their shows at AGCC. Am sure these must have raised some revenue for the club.

"I remember Gene and I were at our newly remodeled club just a night or so before the fire consumed the building, and the catastrophe of that event.

"Bill Stanley of Seaside may have some history of our club. He was a very young and popular caddy many years ago and his mother had a sandwich, soup and pie counter at the club when it was only a golf club. He may have some things along the line to fit into some vacant spots.

Sincerely and Good Luck,
Nancy and Gene Lowe."

Old Clubhouse Legends

At this point in our historical review it seems appropriate to set down for posterity a few legends of the earlier days in the old clubhouse.

First of all, we tell the story of Roy Gibbs and his devotion to the game of golf. His name does not appear as a member of the board of directors or any other office in the club. Probably this was due, in part, to the fact that his occupation took him out of circulation for

perhaps half of each year. Roy Gibbs was a lighthouse keeper on Tillamook Rock when that beacon was operated with human hands to warn shipping of the hazards off the Oregon shore. Those who worked on "Terrible Tillie" were on a schedule which kept them on the Rock for several weeks at a stretch. Then they were brought ashore and had time for recreation and a chance for a normal existence.

Roy Gibbs' hobby was golf and AGCC. On his visits ashore he golfed every day. And when he wasn't golfing he prowled the course in search of lost golf balls. There was even a box in the men's locker room where fellow golfers dropped old balls to be picked up by the lighthouse keeper-golfer.

When Roy returned to the Rock after his time ashore, he took his golf clubs and the balls he had recovered. Then to keep his swing in the groove he installed a driving mat and hit balls into the ocean. Bob Lovell recalls that when he was out of golf balls Roy devised a system of using a substance resembling a ball in size and shape and attached it to a rope. He could hit this many times and the rope would bring it back for another swing. We wonder now how many hundreds of golf balls are resting on the bottom of the Pacific off Tillamook Rock and if the fish who swam in that area wondered about those strange, inedible objects.

Every civilization in the history of the world has had some medium of exchange whether it was money, marbles or chalk. But in the mid 1940s the golfers at AGCC had their own coinage and it was considered legal tender for several years.

In the early days of the imposition of a sales tax in the state of Washington, the revenue department of that state issued aluminum disks with a hole in the center. These were stamped with the official logo and were used by buyers who paid their sales tax when making a purchase.

Golfers here were able to secure supplies of this pseudo medium of exchange and they came to be known as "Igorote Chips." There was a supply of the slugs in nearly every locker and all wagering on the course was paid off in those chips. This went on for a number of years until our neighbors discontinued the use of the chits and went to the system of pennies for payments. But to Astoria golfers they were still known as "Igorote Chips" and, as such, are a part of the legends of the golfing past.

During a period of the late 1940s and early 1950s the slot machine was part and parcel of the equipment of the club. These one armed bandits with a supply of cash proved to be attractive targets for burglaries and there were several break-ins with resultant losses. That was before sophisticated electronic alarm systems and the protection of the clubhouse posed a real problem. The solution was reached when a bed was moved into the slot machine room and a club employee was bedded down each night as the protector of the robots filled with cash. This stopped the vandalism.

Graham Barbey Recalls:

I was president of the Astoria Golf and Country Club from 1950-52. We changed the terms of office from a fiscal to a calendar year, so I was president for two and a half years.

When I returned to Astoria from World War II it was November, 1945. The Country Club had been run during the war years by Sherman Lovell as president. He deserves a lot of credit for keeping the Club alive during the period.

Sherman Lovell owned the bus line in Astoria called Astoria Transit and Sherman had the Country Club books kept at the Transit office. Howard Bonar was the pro and more or less managed everything at the Club. He was bartender also, but there was no full time cook.

Sometime in 1946 a general meeting was called by a rump group consisting of Tom Sandoz, Ed Thompson, Dr. Frank Fowler, Dr. Sam Kleger, Dr. Lansford Spaulding, Neil Morfitt, Chet Laughlin, and probably a few others. All stockholders were invited to attend this meeting which was held at the country club. Sherman Lovell and Jim Hope, the country club's attorney, did not attend.

During the war, everyone paid \$6 a month dues and there was no initiation fee. The rump group decided to take the management away from Sherman Lovell and handle it themselves. Sherman had saved about \$45,000 and the rump group wanted to spend it on remodeling the clubhouse, which Sherman was against. They wrote a nice letter of thanks to Sherman and handed the books to a local accountant, Volney Stewart, to run.

They decided to give everyone who had paid \$6 a month dues during the war a free certificate. This included Tommy Williams, Dr. Vernon Fowler and a number of others. The group decided that an initiation fee of \$275 plus tax would be the cost to join the club from the date forward.

As I recall, Bob Lovell and I were the first two members to pay the \$275 plus tax equalling \$330 to join. Ed Thompson was voted in as president and Sam Kleger was secretary. The following year Chet Laughlin, manager of Lower Columbia Dairy, was made president and I was voted in as secretary. In 1950, I was voted in as president and my board of directors consisted of Dr. Blair Henningsgaard, Bob Anderson, Bill Van Dusen, Richard Paulsen and Guy Rea, manager of the U.S. National Bank.

At that time, there were about 47 full paid-up members (this included those given certificates above) and about 47 installment plan members. They paid \$25 down and \$7.50 a month instead of \$6 a month dues.

Thursday was men's golf day and the men had two poker games Thursday evenings. As I recall, the club had a tiny kitchen where the kitchen is located now. Mrs. Stanley was called in to put on a dinner Thursday nights for the men and Howard Bonar played bartender. There were two small rooms at the south end of the clubhouse facing the 18th green. These were the poker rooms.



Graham Barbey

There were two games, a high stakes game and a lower stakes game every Thursday. Charlie Miller, Sr., the owner of the Youngs Bay Lumber Co., encouraged the high stakes, whereas the youngest members preferred a two bit limit. I can recall that one of the members, mentioned earlier, lost \$2,000 in the high stakes game one night. Since his salary was \$500 a month, it was quite a calamity. Dr. Sam Kleger told me when I followed him as secretary, that one of my duties would be to play bookkeeper for the big game on Thursday nights. I talked him into keeping that job as I only played in the "cowards" poker game as the two bit ante game was called.

About this time the club got slot machines. Vern Raw of Seaside provided us with two nickel machines, two dime machines, two quarter machines and one 50 cent machine. Raw serviced the machines and gave the club 75% of the take, keeping 25% for rent and servicing.

This income really helped the club. I had talked the board and eventually the stockholders into letting me push a non-resident membership plan to increase the club's income. We charged \$25 to join and \$5 a month dues. I talked all our Portland friends who had Gearhart beach houses into joining and then went after both the Waverley and Portland Golf Club members.

We eventually signed up 200 non-residents and added quite a few Army-Navy members which added to the club's income.

At this point, it was obvious that we had to remodel the bar and kitchen. During my period as president, our share of the slot machine earnings amounted to well over \$100,000. We used part of this money to pay back the notes we found in the safe. During the 1929 Depression, the club had borrowed \$10,000 to keep it from going under financially. This was a lot of money in those days. I recall we repaid my father, Henry Barbey, R.R. Bartlett, head of the Port of Astoria, Bill Trembley, owner of Warrenton Lumber Co., Sherman Lovell, Jim Hope, W.L. Thompson, owner of the C.R.P.A., Sam Elmore, Will Tallant and Frank Sanborn, all cannery owners, their loans with interest. They were surprised. As I remember a couple had forgotten that they had come to the rescue of the club.

After this was taken care of, we remodeled the bar and kitchen, bought a new tee mower, a new greens mower, painted the Club inside and out, bought a new truck for the greenskeeper and hired an interior decorator, Josephine Andrews from Meier and Frank in Portland to recover the furniture and provide new draperies. Our wives painted some of the furniture and the upright piano.

We still had no full time chef or manager. To get activity at the club, we started Sunday night suppers once a month. The members were assigned dishes to bring and it was like a pot luck operation. We also started a stag night once a month and hired Mrs. Stanley to do the dinners for the men.

About this time, the wives were complaining about attending the evening affairs as they got wet walking from the parking lot up the walk to the clubhouse. To alleviate this, we built a porte-cochere where it is now and added the circular driveway to solve that problem.

Later, when the kitchen was remodeled we started hiring full time chefs. One funny experience resulted. I received a call at my office at the cannery from Howard Bonar. He said, "Graham, I think the chef has quit." I asked him how he knew. Howard said, "As I was walking by the kitchen, I saw him open up the freezer, take all the frozen steaks out, throw them on the floor, jump up and down on them, put on his hat, walk out the door and shout, 'I quit.'" I agreed with Howard; the chef had quit.

One evening while I was president, Anne and I were having a few friends in for dinner at our Astoria home. The telephone rang while we were sitting at the dinner table. I answered the phone and it was John Osborn, owner of the Gearhart Hotel. He sounded very upset and asked me if I was still president of the Astoria Country Club. I said yes, why? He stated that Bill Wilcox who owned the Gearhart Golf Course had just called the Associated Press and advised them that he had decided to cancel the Oregon Coast Tournament. The tournament was scheduled in two weeks. The prizes had all been purchased, the Gearhart Hotel was booked solid, as were all the other hotels and motels in Gearhart and Seaside. Wilcox told the press that it was too much work to run the tournament and he was tired of it and planned to sell Gearhart Golf Course.

John Osborn asked me if the Astoria Country Club would take over the tournament that year since everything was ready to go. I told John to hold the phone and I would get back to him. As it happened the five men sitting in my dining room were all members of the Country Club board. We discussed it for a couple of minutes and decided to go for it. John was very pleased and called the press immediately to announce the change of location.

The next two weeks were very busy organizing the tournament. All the members and the few employees we had were wonderful about pitching in. The tournament was a big success.

At this point, I went to Bill Wilcox who was also a member of the Astoria Country Club, and talked him

into selling to me the title to the Oregon Coast Tournament for \$1. I then gave it to the Astoria Country Club and had Bob Anderson who was on the club board of directors, and our club attorney, register the name in all the counties along the Oregon Coast. From this date on, the tournament belonged to the Astoria Country Club.

One more thing that was inaugurated during my terms in office was what we call the Halderman Tree Program. There were no trees between the 1st and 18th fairways and none between the 11th and 12th fairways. We put in alder trees one summer and the wind that winter blew them out of the ground. We had assigned Charlie Halderman the chairmanship of this program. He talked to Barney Lucus who was developing Surf Pines and got a large volume of beach pines from him which were placed where they are now. As you know, even the pines blow over when they get older, but some had stood up since 1951.

I don't know whether to include this in the history, but the water supply for the course had an interesting background.

About 1950, we found that we needed more water to keep the greens green in the summer months. We had no sprinkling system, just faucets, to which we attached hoses and sprinklers strategically placed around the course. We had a connection to the Warrenton Water System for the two drinking fountains and the clubhouse.

George Harvey had been hired by this point to be the superintendent of the golf course. He pleaded for more water so we told him to run a line from the Warrenton water supply down the hill across the 9th tee and plug it into his existing lines. He did this without notifying Warrenton. We were therefore not on a meter for this additional supply of water.

Someone told me about five years ago that Warrenton couldn't figure out why there was so much water being used and not paid for. In the meantime the club had put in the sprinkling system with pumps from both lakes, but we still were using Warrenton water free on the course. I guess Warrenton finally found the line across the 9th tee and made us disconnect, but we had free water from 1950 to that point. (I hope the statute of limitations had run out by now.)

I believe Guy Rea followed me as president. He is alive and living in Portland.

I believe the sprinkling system was put in when Blair Henningsgaard was president.

Then there's the story about Dr. Frank Fowler, Tom Sandoz, and Ed Thompson. Dr. Fowler was a local physician and surgeon, Tom Sandoz was executive vice president of Columbia River Packers Assn., and Edward Thompson was president of C.R.P.A., getting a ride to Astoria from Carl Nyquist, Ford dealer, from the club. Carl only took them as far as his house at the top of 8th and Niagara and made them walk home to 15th and Niagara and carry their clubs. They never forgave him.

I hope that this hasn't been too long.

— Graham J. Barbey



Guy C. Rea

1953

1953

There is no record extant of the year 1953 as these were undoubtedly consumed in the flames of 1968. The manager of the Astoria branch of United States National Bank, Guy C. Rea, was president for this term. During his 10 years in Astoria he was very active in civic affairs and served as commander of Clatsop Post No. 12 of the American Legion and president of the local Kiwanis Club, among other civic contributions. He went from Astoria to Coos Bay and then was promoted to the bank's head office in Portland. He retired as a senior vice president of the bank and then was chosen as president of an independent bank for several years. At this writing he is in his 80s and living in retirement in Portland.

1953 was the year when the people of Oregon went to the polls and authorized liquor by the drink. Prior to that time, a night on the town required the consumer of alcohol to take along his own bottle. It was given a number and all drinks, supposedly, were concocted out of his own container. This was a cumbersome and costly procedure for operators of clubs and bars and the change to liquor by the drink was a welcome variation from that procedure.



**Dr. Vernon
"Bud" Fowler**

1954-56

1954-1956

Some records were saved from the 1968 fire through the efforts of Roy Thompson who was then the greenskeeper. The edges of certain files and papers bear the charred effects of the flames. We have one file folder which contains all the records of the years 1954 to 1961 and we will attempt to reconstruct some of the highlights of those years.

Dr. Vernon "Bud" Fowler, MD, was president in those years. He was an obstetrician and often said he had been hauled off the golf course in every conceivable type of vehicle when some baby demanded entrance into this world. He was one of the first to use any kind of golf cart. Following a heart attack he acquired what was laughingly referred to as a "kiddy car." It held only one occupant with a space for a set of clubs but it got him around the course and he was able to continue to enjoy golf.

The trees alongside the fairways had grown enough by this time that it was deemed they were able to withstand play. So the rule was laid down that the ball was to be played as it lies from the newly planted trees, except those which were staked.

The annual meeting was told that the club was in good shape financially and that the total membership was 265.

Social life was centered about the ballroom dancing lessons, given by Ed Cheney, a popular instructor of that era, who came from Portland for the sessions. The cost was \$15 per couple for the series and instructions were given in the Cuban Mambo, Rhumba, Samba and various Fox Trot steps.

Junior golf continued with Pro Ron Caperna giving free lessons to all children of members from 4th grade through high school.

The women's group reported a very successful stagette.

Mixed couples bridge was also a highlight of the social side of club life. They were reported to have had a buffet catered which cost \$1.75 per person.

1957

Tommy Williams presided over the affairs of the club during this year.

In order to protect the rights of the club to irrigation water from Neacoxie Lake, a new pumping and irrigation system was installed to provide water for the fourth and fifth holes as well as other parts of the western portion of the course.

There was increased use of golf carts and the need was ever present for additional storage space for the vehicles. The board authorized a new cart shed and provided for a fee of \$100 for putting a golf cart on the course. Storage space was set at \$10 per month.

By this date the revenue from "recreational" devices had been lost. The quote is a shorthand version of "slot machines." To make up for this lost revenue there was an adjustment of fees for services and golf charges to hold down any possible losses.



**Thomas R.
Williams**

1957-58

One of the social events of the year was a pot luck dinner with any proceeds to be used for improvements to the bar room. Members were to bring food and also pay \$1.50 per person into the fund. The response must have been unusual for the board reported a profit of nearly \$1,000.

There was a slackening of Navy and Army activity in the area and the longtime classification of Army and Navy memberships was eliminated.

Membership continued on the upward swing as the year ended with 276 members.

1958

Tommy Williams was serving a second term as president.

There had never been a full time dining room operation. It had been a constant source of trouble with most meals and lunches being prepared by women who were brought in from the neighborhood to prepare snacks and sandwiches. If any meals were served at night it was the policy to have them catered or prepared by these part time cooks. The board now proposed that the kitchen be closed and that sandwiches and soups be served only in the bar. Catering was to be the order of the day for special events.

The board also proposed at this time that an underground sprinkler system be installed and directed that the project should cost not more than \$28,000. It was proposed that the cost be underwritten by an assessment against the membership of \$150. This could be paid off by an addition of \$2.50 per month for five years added to dues, or could be paid in cash with the inducement of a 25% discount if paid by February 1, 1959. Any new members joining in the next five years would be assessed the \$2.50 monthly charge.

At the annual meeting of 1958 the membership approved the purchase of eight acres south of the parking lot for a driving range. Cost was \$3,000 with \$350 made as a down payment and the balance of \$2,650 to be paid to \$50 per month and interest at 6%.

To try to solve the dining room problem the board placed ads in the Portland papers offering operators

interested a house plus \$200 per month for all except May and September with closure in January.

Membership reported to total 268, a loss of 7 in the year's time.

1959

Interviewed on his 88th birthday, Don Mitchell told of coming to Astoria in 1936 to found Columbia Oil Co. He has served his adopted community well over the years and is the oldest living ex-president of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce. He recalls that he didn't become a member of the golf club until 1947. He was to serve on the board for a number of years and became president for the first time in 1959. Club policy then decreed that no one could serve consecutive terms as president and seven years were to elapse before his second term in office.

His most vivid recollections of his years working for the club are those after the fire in 1968. He was appointed to a finance committee with Tom Sandoz and Erling Orwick to come up with financing for the projected new clubhouse. When they approached First National Bank they were told that Astoria Golf and Country Club was in the best financial shape of any golf club in Oregon, with reliable assets and minimum liabilities. The projected cost of the new building was thought to be around \$250,000 and a loan of this size could be negotiated and that the club could come back for more if needed. Such a loan was made but it was split between First National and U.S. National with each taking \$175,000.

Don recalls that Jay Hendrickson, who was general superintendent of the operations of Columbia River Packers Association, agreed to supervise the job while construction of the new clubhouse was underway. This proved a wise choice as the board was under pressure from many sources for adoption of certain features thought necessary by the proposers for personal or selfish reasons. All in all, six different plans were considered before the final design was approved and accepted. Don says: "We tried to build for the service and convenience of the greatest number of members." He express-



**Donovan F.
Mitchell**

1959



**Blair
Henningsgaard**
1960

ed satisfaction that the loan he and his fellow committee members had negotiated was fully paid off on schedule.

He also recalled that the problems with the dining room seemed to end with the opening of the new clubhouse. The feeling at that time was that full service should be offered and that dinners as well as lunches should be a part of the club operation.

Don thinks he had one of the first Lektro golf carts on the course. He can't be sure of the date, but thinks it might be around 1954.

During his time as president the new sprinkler system was built and put into operation. There was some opposition to this improvement as some golfers liked the sun baked fairways of the summer months when they got more roll on their shots. They wanted them hard and dry rather than sporting lush turf. But the sprinkler system prevailed and our course today is one of the more playable in the Pacific Northwest.

As the oldest living ex-president of Astoria Golf and Country Club, Don Mitchell can look back with satisfaction to his record of service to the golf club and its members.

Also in 1959, in an effort to boost the cash flow from the golf course, green fees were set at \$3 for weekdays and \$4 for Saturdays and Sundays. Carts owned by the club were rented at the rate of \$4 for nine holes and \$6 for 18. Later in the year green fees were reduced 50% for play after 5 p.m. And special groups could play for \$1 per person but application must be made in advance by the group. This special rate was not to be in effect on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays.

Dining room was still a problem. Had prospects to receive subsidy of \$200 per month for seven months but no takers to operate the facility.

The club had borrowed \$25,000 to finance the sprinkling system. This cost was now adjusted to \$33,901.92.

Major projects of the year were reported as: 1. The automatic sprinkling system; 2. Revision and printing of the by-laws; and 3. Renovation of the caretaker's house.

1960

This year Blair Henningsgaard, MD, served as president. It was a year of more questions about the operation of the dining room, a situation which had plagued past boards. There was a special meeting called as the club was without services for meals of any kind. After testing all sorts of theories through years of indecision and trouble, the board decided that the dining room should be run as a club function and not as a concession by an independent contractor.

The year began with a minus bank balance of \$900 but careful management erased the red ink and the year closed with the club on the black side of the ledger. The annual meeting was told that the club was in good shape financially.

Before the year was out the dining room had been reopened and was being operated as a club function.

The course was spiked in its entirety and two new traps were added for variety. The parking lot was being enlarged to take care of the increased traffic.

1961

Neil Morfitt, a charter member of the club in 1923, was chosen to lead the club during this year.

The era of the motorized golf cart had arrived as we learn from minutes of a board meeting on April 19, 1961. At this time the board heard Wilt Paulson of Willamette Aircraft present some cost figures on Lektro golf carts. As a part of his presentation of the new vehicles, which were manufactured locally, he offered to have one of his new carts left at the club for trial by members of the board. These original carts had no top, no side curtains, heater, or other accessory, but Lektro must have built real quality into their product as there are several still going strong as this is written. Tops and other conveniences have been added to the original design to cope with inclement weather.

Club operation of the kitchen appears not to have been successful as arrangements were made for another independent contractor to take over the operation. It seems that he (or she) demanded a subsidy of \$300 per month.



Neil L. Morfitt
1961-62

The status of the club's liquor license was dependent on providing food service. To protect this license the board raised the dues but this raise was offset by issuing script in the amount of the increase. This script was to be legal tender in the dining room but only in the month in which it was issued. It was hoped that this plan would protect the liquor license and increase traffic in both the bar and dining room.

There were 317 entries in the Oregon Coast Tournament.

Membership totalled 292 at year's end, a gain of 10.

Ralph Dichter was club champion.

Club properties were appraised at \$150,000 replacement value and \$100,000 depreciated value. This did not count land or sprinkler systems.

The bar had been renovated mainly through volunteer efforts of members of the club.

The sprinkling system had been installed in 1958 and it was reported to the board that the projection was that it would be paid for in the next five years. It will be recalled that this improvement was financed through a \$2.50 monthly assessment of the dues of playing members.

1962

Neil Morfitt was again elected president. Frank Maize was the club champion.

The dining room was still a problem. Due to lack of patronage the board decided to close it entirely during the winter months.

Five new Lektro golf carts were purchased by the club for rentals, replacing the older models. These had tops, windshields, and fenders. This purchase totalled \$6,142.50 less 15% and a trade-in allowance on the old carts of \$1,500 resulting in a net cost of \$3,721.12. The old carts had been used about five years and had cost \$750 when new.

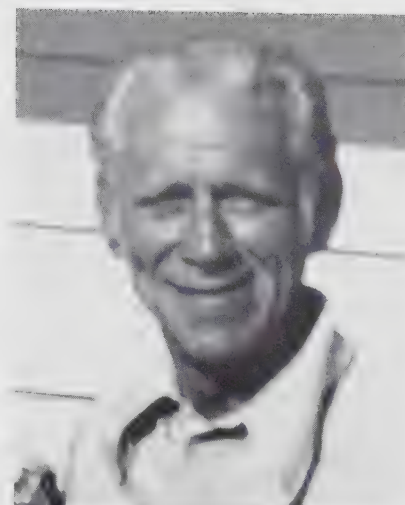
During the year there was a dues increase that raised the fee for playing members to \$15 and non-residents to \$7.50.

The cook resigned and there was no food service. In an effort to provide some offerings of such facilities the board considered the feasibility of installing a sandwich vending machine in the bar.

The \$5 assessment and the issuance of script for use in the dining room was eliminated.

Junior memberships were now to cost \$7.50 per month and \$1.50 of this amount was to be applied on a membership certificate.

The annual meeting was informed that there were 292 members.



**Robert C.
Anderson**

1963

1963

Robert C. Anderson was president of the club during this year.

The operation of the dining room continued to be a problem for the Board. During part of the year Fred Peschel was operating the concession. The club scheduled a dinner for a certain evening and was informed that he would prepare and serve the meal but wanted a guarantee of \$2 or \$2.50 per serving and insisted that this be for at least eighteen couples. The women of the club scheduled a style show and were informed that he wanted a guarantee of 60 persons at \$1.50 each.

Board action gave the Women's group the sum of \$15 to promote social events.

Bar drinks were reduced from 60 cents to 50 cents. No reason is given for the reduction.

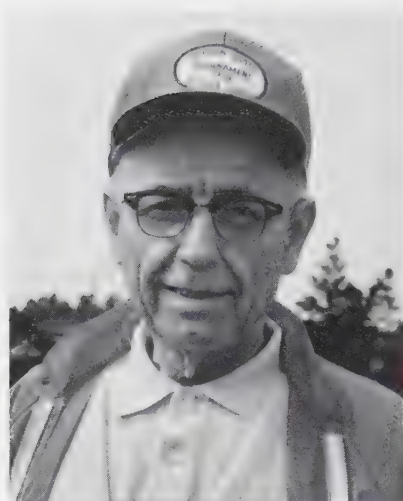
There were 344 entries in the Oregon Coast Tournament for the 320 openings. Twenty-nine were from private clubs and 121 from public courses.

As the year neared a close it was determined that the dining room be closed in October and remain closed during the winter months. Coffee and sandwiches were to be served in the bar. No detail as to who was to prepare the food.

The club was having trouble with getting and keeping club managers. To try to find solutions a special committee was named to study the problem and come up with some answers.

The year ended with 301 names on the roster. Forty-two had been added during the year and 33 had been lost for one reason or another.

Proprietary membership was now set at \$330. Dues had risen to \$19.50 per month which included tax and assessments. The club also offered a membership plan by which \$30 was to be made as a down payment and the monthly dues in this category would be \$22.50 per month. Green fees were set at \$3 on weekdays and from May to October weekend play would cost \$4. No doubt the club now owned some rental golf carts as we see, a fee for use of such a vehicle, the charge being \$7 for 18 holes.



**Lester R.
Spofford**

1964

1964

Les Spofford presided this year.

The Board learned in September of this year that they were in hot water. For some reason the club had hot water problems and showers were cold and intermittent. This caused one board member to remark that he thought it was "ironic" to note that the board was always in hot water but never had any. To lower the heat on the board and provide a return to the steaming showers the sum of \$2,130 was appropriated to solve the hot water problem.

Early this year there were 152 entries in the Oregon Coast Tournament. To attract entrants it was proposed to offer each contestant two drink tickets and an "Oregon Coast Golf Ball." The entrance fee to the Coast Tournament was raised from \$20 to \$25. As the date for the tournament neared it was learned that 288 had entered. Plans were also made for a dinner during the annual tournament, this to be held at the clubhouse and prepared by a caterer.

Members had been paying a \$2.50 monthly assessment for funds to purchase the land for the driving range. At the annual meeting of this year it was proposed that this assessment be continued for another eight years to permit borrowing \$50,000 for clubhouse improvements and long range planning. This continuing charge was approved by the membership.

There were 275 members in 1964. A membership drive resulted in twenty-nine new names on the club rolls, total 304.

The irrigation system was paid off from monies derived from the \$2.50 assessment on playing memberships. Money now derived from this source was placed in a "Golf Course Improvement Fund."

1965

Victor Horgan was the presiding officer.

Over the years minutes of Board meetings reveal a continuing problem with the Internal Revenue Service. This controversy revolved around rules of the club relative to guests and outside events. The club had been on the IRS books as a non-profit organization but, after many conferences and interchange of correspondence, the government agency revoked the privilege. It finally became necessary for the club to retain the services of a tax attorney in Portland who brought the case to the bureau. After making some changes in rules and policy the non-profit status of the club was restored. But this was to be a continuing problem each year.

"Temporary Non-Resident Social" was the listing for a new membership classification announced this year. Those so enrolled would pay \$15 annually and the regular green fees when golfing. A guest card was to be used for identification and all cards were to be checked by club employees.

Lektro Golf Carts offered a special to the club for a fleet of rental carts. Willamette aircraft, the local builder, would sell the carts for \$1,235.20 and then would allow an additional discount of 15% to make a net-cost of \$1,049.92.

The dining room was a continuing problem and to try to work out a solution the club hired an independent contractor to provide service. He was to be paid \$150 per month to run the kitchen and would keep what the till brought in for his labors. Due to slow months in December and January the kitchen and dining room were closed so he was not paid in those months.

During the year the club hosted an Adult-Junior tournament and the adult winner was a certain Erling Jacobsen of Portland. His partner? His son who has become a household name in the golf world. None other than Peter Jacobsen!

This proved to be a great year for the women's organization of the club. Alice Niemi was elected to head up this group and she immediately embarked on a series of golf and social events that attracted record numbers on all occasions. If you have any doubts about her effec-



Victor W. Horgan

1965

tive leadership ask to look through the scrapbook she kept for the year. Not only did she save all programs and scorecards but there is a handwritten resume of each event.

Membership rolls totalled 305 members in all classes and this showed a gain of fourteen over the previous year. But by the time for the Annual Meeting in 1966 this total had grown to 306. The Board also reported that the club had been in the black generally each year.

1966

See also Don Mitchell's report for 1959. He was president both years.

For several years there had been much agitation for a remodeling of the clubhouse which was now 42 years old. This year this stirring resulted in the formation of committees who would spend many hours seeking ways to improve the facility and still retain much of the charm of the old building.

There was still no progress on solutions to the problems of running a dining room. The policy was continued that any dinners or other social events held at the club would be catered rather than supplied by club employees.

There was also considerable discussion during this period with regards to whether the club should be operated as a public or private organization. Many opinions were expressed but no definite action appears to go public.

The club also experienced a rash of burglaries during the year, no doubt due to the isolated location of the clubhouse and pro shop. Losses were considerable and this situation, no doubt, led to sophisticated alarm systems when these electronic devices became available.

1967

Frank Maize was president in 1967. He died in March 1990, so Vice President George Abrahamsen recalls the highlights of that year in club affairs.

Most of the discussion of the year was taken up with various improvements to the golf course, adding on and improving the locker rooms, and remodeling the kitchen and dining room.

I was busy getting floor plans and estimates for the locker room phase and Tommy Williams was getting together plans and projected costs for the dining room and kitchen improvements.

The year seemed to bring problems with our club managers. We fired two and hired Alan Arsenault.

In the minutes we find a couple of interesting committee reports when we look back on the summaries of the membership and golf committees.

Membership reported we had 106 proprietary, 43 with a time payment plan, six were termed non-participating, 20 were counted as social, there were 13 juniors and 115 non-residents.



J. Frank Maize

1967

The golf committee recommended and the Board approved: \$5 green fees on weekdays, \$6 on weekends, and \$2.50 and \$3.50 for nine holes.

The big Ford tractor you still see in use was bought in 1967 for less than \$5,000.

Roy Thompson was greenskeeper. George Harvey had retired but was available to Roy as a consultant and Marlow Quick was the pro.

Golf carts were becoming increasingly popular and the club, to fill the demand for rental vehicles, agreed to buy four rebuilt Lektro carts from the local manufacturer, Willamette Industries. Cost was a net \$675 for each.

There had been a lot of planning over the past couple of years for renovation of the clubhouse to meet current needs. Contracts had been let and most of the work had been completed to the satisfaction of the Board and membership. There were still some items needed for the social rooms to complete the job but these needs were deferred until such time as money became available to do the job right.

There was a full field of 320 entries in the Oregon Coast Tournament this year with each entrant paying a fee of \$30.

Total membership was 303 in all classes.

The Clubhouse Burns

The catastrophic fire of Memorial Day weekend 1968 deserves a place of special mention in this story as it had a pronounced effect on the future of Astoria Golf and Country Club. The structure had served the club well over the years but hindsight assures us that it would, of necessity, have needed a replacement to meet modern needs of a growing membership. Rather than try to reconstruct the story of the fire, and rely on memories growing dimmer by the years, we here reproduce the front page story in *The Astorian* which told of the conflagration. Appearing on June 3, 1968, the local press described the disaster as follows:

The 44-year-old, recently remodelled clubhouse of Astoria Country Club burned to the ground early Saturday morning in a fire of unknown origin.

George Abrahamsen, country club president, said the building will be rebuilt, but that current thinking is to erect some sort of a temporary structure to serve during the coming summer season.

Insurance will come to around \$160,000 or \$170,000, it was estimated, the exact amount to be determined by an appraisal.

It will cost around \$300,000 to replace the structure, Abrahamsen estimated.

The club had spent around \$75,000 or more on

extensive improvements this year, which had just been completed. These included new kitchen, new lockers, extensive remodelling of the main lounge and other improvements.

PRO SHOP SAVED

The newly-built pro shop, about 60 feet north of the clubhouse, was saved despite a southerly wind that blew flames and cinders in its direction.

Club officials credited the Warrenton, Gearhart and Hammond fire departments, which responded to the alarm, for saving the pro shop.

Included in the loss were personal belongings of 168 members in lockers, estimated at around \$200 average for each locker contents. Personal insurance of members was expected to cover these losses.

The fire was discovered at 5:45 a.m. Saturday by Joe Schneider, assistant professional, and a party of workmen who were arriving to begin work on the greens. They saw smoke coming from the building. They called Marlow Quick, the club professional, who lives nearby, and he summoned firemen. But before they could arrive the building had burst into flames.

WILL INVESTIGATE

The fire started in the, southern wing of the building, which houses the bar.



"Fire had pretty much accomplished the destruction of the clubhouse at Astoria Country Club when Daily Astorian photographer Don Roberts took this shot Saturday morning. The building was erected in 1924, remodeled in 1947, and remodeled again this year. Destruction was total, but a nearby newly-built pro shop was saved." Daily Astorian Photo

There was no evidence of incendiary origin, but the state fire marshal was to send an investigator Monday to check the ruins for any evidence of arson.

At first it was suspected someone might have broken in to rob coin vending machines, and perhaps started the fire. Money in a cigarette machine was at first thought to be missing, but later was found in a melted lump.

Abrahamsen said temporary arrangements will be made to handle three major tournaments scheduled this summer. First of these is the Oregon Coast Tournament the last week in July. Following will be the Oregon Golfers Association Tournament in August and the Oregon Senior Tournament in September.

J. Wilson Johnston, Chairman of the 1968 Oregon Coast Tournament, offers some recollections of the loss of the clubhouse and how the club overcame adversity.

When I heard on the radio that the Astoria Golf and Country Club house had burned down I could not believe my ears. I thought it must be an exaggerated report as these things frequently are. I must admit that my first thought was a selfish one; concern for my personal effects that I had left in my locker! Bill Palmberg and I had played in the Riverside Invitational the prior weekend and, because of inclement weather, I had not played during the week and thus had left much of my golfing gear in my locker where I had put it upon our return from Riverside. We had taken plenty of clothing (4 pairs of slacks, 3 pairs of shoes, 4 sweaters, 4 pair of golf sox, golf bifocal glasses, 3 hats, 48 practice balls in a retriever, and a favorite Ben Hogan one-iron) to Riverside as we did not know what the weather would be.

When I reached the clubhouse and surveyed the damage it was a most discouraging sight. Some of the Board were there and Frank Maize, who was the club President, told me to cancel the Oregon Coast Tournament. I demurred saying that I knew many of the contestants from the Portland area and they came to play the golf course and not the clubhouse. Frank pointed out that we would have no place to hold our social events which are such an integral part of the Oregon Coast Tournament. I asked if I might attend an emergency meeting of the Board which was to be held the following Monday night and Frank said that I would be welcome and to bring any information that I might be able to develop.

(One thing that I learned in the military is that, in the face of adversity, DO SOMETHING!) Marian and I spent Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday searching for accommodations for the social events of the tournament and seeking a solution to the problem of a replacement clubhouse. We talked to people in Astoria, Seaside, and Gearhart with a view to holding the dinners and dances during the tournament. We even thought of using the Grange Hall which now supports the Square Dancers near the club on Highway 101. We finally struck a deal with John Osborne who had the old Gearhart Hotel and our events were held there for the next two years. This was really a more convenient

arrangement for those of our contestants who were staying in the Gearhart or Seaside area as they did not have as far to go after finishing their rounds of golf and returning to their temporary homes to change for the social events.

We found a mobile home that seemed to fit our needs as it was 28'x52' and had three bedrooms and two baths. By removing two partitions the bedrooms opened up into a larger area and the O.L.C.C. was satisfied in that we would have a bathroom for ladies and one for men. The cost, as I recall it, was \$10,000 in place.

On Monday night I attended the emergency meeting of the Board and reported what we had found about available accommodations. Tom Williams did not think much of mobile homes but admitted that he had not been in one. Someone had located a quonset type building in Idaho that had been used as a school that was available but we would have to pay for the transportation. A committee was appointed to go and view the mobile home that we had located and, if found to be acceptable, to purchase same. Thus we had an "instant clubhouse" within 72 hours of the decision to proceed. Our club manager, Alan Arsenault, was besieged with offers of help from other Oregon Golf Association clubs. Paper napkins from Riverside, coasters and matches from Portland, silverware and temporary dishes from Waverley and the assurance that we could have anything we wanted. It was truly a heartwarming outpouring of friendship.

We found a large blue and white tent that the United States National Bank used for branch openings and other celebrations. The bank generously made it available to us at no cost although we did have to pay for the transportation, erection and repair. This ran to \$500 per year and we used the tent for two years as insurance against inclement weather. Our temporary clubhouse was inadequate to house and shelter a large number of people at any one time.

The "instant clubhouse" was erected immediately north of the pro shop and the temporary tent shelter erected north of that during the tournament week. We had a run-in with the local O.L.C.C. inspector who contended that our license did not permit the sale or consumption of liquor outside the temporary clubhouse. By invoking the name of one of our members, Tom McCall, and by pointing out that the license was in the name of the Astoria Golf and Country Club and that body embraced something like 187 acres we were able to proceed as planned.

The revenues of the club were almost as high as they were the last year of operation in the old clubhouse and operating expense was much lower. While the new clubhouse was being constructed the temporary "instant clubhouse" served us well. It was finally sold to one of our members (Greg Kershul) for little less than we paid for it.

And so we, Astoria Golf and Country Club, survived and overcame a crisis of first magnitude. We have continued to thrive and have become the impressive club that we are today with an active membership, a superb facility and an indomitable spirit!

1968

The officers for 1968, serving on the Board with me, were Evert McNeeley, vice president; Harry Swanson, secretary; Erling Orwick, treasurer. Jerry McCallister, Vern Davis, Tom Williams, Tom Sandoz, and Jimmy McCallister made up the rest of the directors.

This was a busy year with much time devoted to planning improvements in the clubhouse. After much work by a planning committee we built onto the locker room, remodeled the kitchen and dining room.

We hardly had time to appreciate these improvements before disaster struck in a fire which almost completely wiped out the structure. Only the bricks on the fireplace remained standing. All of this occurred on Memorial Day weekend and we were faced with busy summer play and the upcoming Oregon Coast Tournament without any facilities to accommodate our members and guests.

The Board immediately called special meetings along with the regular scheduled conferences in an effort to get things moving toward a replacement for the burned out clubhouse. Brown, Brown and Grider, Architects, were hired to draw up plans and specifications for the new building. A building committee was appointed with Vern Davis, chairman, and Tom Sandoz was selected to head up a finance committee.

To meet our immediate needs a large trailer was purchased and placed just north of the pro shop. Various Portland golf clubs donated furniture and one club donated a nice stainless steel combination bar sink that fit nicely into the trailer for a temporary bar facility.

This trailer turned into a low overhead – high profit deal. But we changed our shoes in the car and had no showers at the club. In spite of all this we got along great.

This was also the year that Vern Davis, who was employed by Crown Zellerbach, made up and donated the cedar posts and signs we now have on our tees.

The Oregon Coast came off on schedule despite our lack of facilities and we had all the social functions of the tournament at the old Gearhart Hotel.

The 1968 Annual Meeting was held at the Windjammer in Gearhart, then located adjacent to the Gearhart Hotel.

At the end of the year we had around 400 members in all categories and we felt pretty flush so we raised the initiation fee to \$750.

A survey this year of the costs of some other golf clubs in Oregon revealed the following membership fees: Waverley (Portland), \$4,000; Oswego Lake, \$1,200; Portland Golf Club, \$2,800; Columbia Edgewater, \$1,200; Riverside (Portland), \$1,000. It is interesting to contrast these prices with the fees currently charged by these same clubs. No doubt the Board felt, after this survey, that AG&CC was the greatest golf bargain in Oregon! Our then initiation fee of \$330 was in sharp contrast to those revealed in the survey.

As the year neared the close the plans for the new clubhouse were accepted and approved. The estimated



**George
Abrahamsen**

1968-69

cost was figured at \$295,300 for the building and \$100,000 for furnishings. The Finance Committee was actively seeking a loan for \$350,000 and the Board expressed the hope that the entire project could be completed for \$400,000.

— George Abrahamsen

1969

The Board of Directors for 1969 comprised George Abrahamsen, president; Harry Swanson, vice president; Don Edy, secretary, Jerry McCallister, treasurer. Other members were Vern Davis, Bill Van Dusen, Jim McCallister and Tom Sandoz.

The Building Committee chaired by Vern Davis and the Finance Committee chaired by Tom Sandoz functioned perfectly.

Tom Sandoz, with Don Mitchell's help, got a \$350,000 loan for 15 years at 7½ percent, and this along with our insurance money assured us that we could go ahead with our plans for the new building.

On March 26, 1969 bids were opened for the new clubhouse and Albert Mittet was low bidder at \$343,000. This did not include any carpeting or furniture. I think the total cost of the new building was between \$450,000 and \$500,000.

After the old building burned we had to pull in our horns and went back to the \$330 initiation fee. I think we took in only one member at the \$750 fee and gave him a refund to the old rate. At the same February 14th meeting we also raised the dues \$10 to help pay off the mortgage.

There may be some slight errors in this report because my memory is not what it used to be and the minutes were pretty sketchy and left some questions.

1969 was also a time for a review of the dues and membership structure. Proprietary members would pay \$330 initiation fee and \$27.50 per month dues. If a time payment plan was elected the fee was still \$330 with \$100 as a down payment with the application. The balance was to be paid quarterly with interest at 8½ percent. Total of dues and payment to be \$30.50. The non-resident fee was set at \$30 for initiation and dues were to be \$18 per month. The social classification was to be

\$13 per month and Associate Women were to pay \$27.50 per month. Green fees were \$10 per day and weekends \$7.50. These were to be reduced by \$1.50 if playing with a member.

An ever present problem which had plagued the club for several years entered discussions of the Board. This was the question of whether we were to exist as a profit or non-profit organization. No decision was reached but it was an issue that must be faced as many outside organizations were seeking use of the club facilities for social events and meetings.

Most of our board meetings were held in the board room of the Bumble Bee office at the foot of Sixth Street in Astoria.

1970

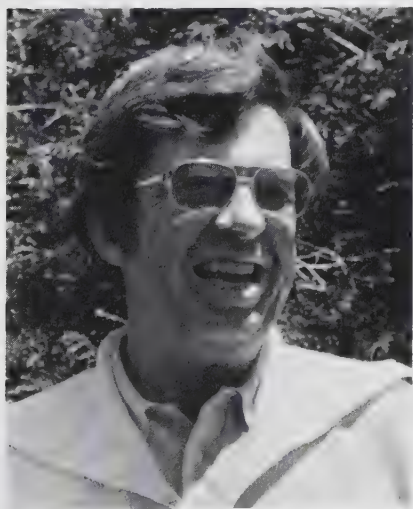
Harry Swanson, Jr., presided.

Tom McCall, then Governor of Oregon, was the guest of honor on April 11 of this year to cut the red ribbon and officially open and dedicate the new clubhouse. The Governor also toured the course for a round of golf while here as well as participating in the ceremonies of opening the new facility to replace the 1924 structure which had been destroyed by fire two years previously.

A long standing dispute with the Internal Revenue Service was terminated some months after the opening of the new clubhouse. Those on the Board in this year recall there was pressure from many civic groups to use the facilities of the club for various meetings and dinners. Some said it was the most desirable location on the North Coast as well as being centrally located between Astoria and Seaside. So the Board came to the decision that the club give up the tax exempt status and allow outside events, a policy which continues to the present.

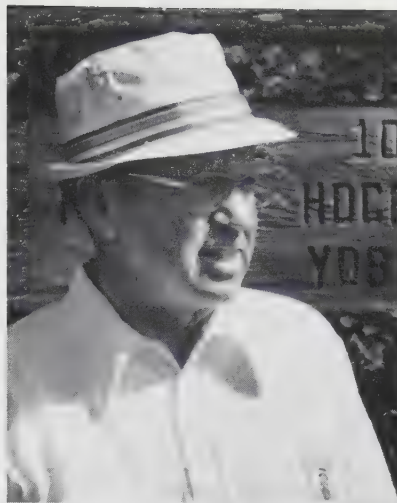
A rip roaring winter storm came off the Pacific early in the year and when the damage had been assessed it was found that we had lost nearly one hundred trees to the elements.

The annual Coast Tournament was pronounced a success with a full field enrolled well before tournament



**Harry R.
Swanson, Jr.**

1970



**J. Wilson
Johnston**

1971

time and a waiting list for those who would take the place of any dropouts. The entry fee was raised to \$37.50.

1971

J. Wilson Johnston served as President this year.

1971 was a year of adjustment and consolidation. The new clubhouse, which opened in 1970, provided an expanded and more efficient facility for club activities. Like all new structures, it proved to have some deficiencies that required correction.

Among these was the need for a new water line connecting the club to the Warrenton water system. The old line was inadequate because of deterioration and increased demand by the new clubhouse. A new main was installed to correct this situation. The Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau found an inadequacy in our sprinkler system and indicated a steep rise in fire rates unless corrected. Many hours of negotiation by Brown & Grider, the architects, proved fruitless and we proceeded to replace the undersized system.

A winter wind storm destroyed several of our trees on the golf course and we located and had planted 25 Monterrey Cypress trees to augment our remaining trees. No changes were made in the course itself as our focus on upgrading maintenance. The rental fleet of golf carts was expanded and older carts replaced by the purchase of 12 used carts from the Seattle Golf Club.

The men's locker room was the target of several break-ins with personal property stolen. We also observed unauthorized use of the facilities by persons coming in from the outside. These conditions led to the installation of a card-lock system with key-cards provided to the members to permit access. Slots for the cards are still in evidence but the plastic admission cards are no longer necessary. Needless to say they were never very popular with the membership.

Captain James Clune resigned from the Board effective 31 July because of change of station orders received from the U.S. Coast Guard. Harvey Mills was appointed to fill out the unexpired term as a Board member.

A series of "open" Board meetings was initiated to gain more input from club members. Although all Board meetings are open to the membership few members attend these meetings. It was hoped that by having "special" and "open" meetings of the Board the feelings of the membership could be better determined and understood. A few of these meetings were well attended and produced some good and sometimes warm exchanges.

A matter of continuing concern to the Board was the fact that the By-Laws of the club did not clearly define proprietary membership especially in regard to time-payment members. The rights and privileges of such members were not set forth and there was a question as to when a proprietary member may receive his certificate. A By-laws Review Committee was appointed to review this situation and submit suggested changes to be put before the membership. This Committee consisted of Judge Tom Edison as Chairman, Robert Anderson, Jerry McCallister, Vern Cook, and Vic Horgan. Upon completion of the study and review of the By-laws by this committee a special meeting of the general membership was convened on November 4, 1971 at which time the recommended amendments and changes to the By-laws were approved.

Additional revenues were needed to offset the constantly increasing cost of labor and supplies. After extended discussion the Board decided to initiate a dining room assessment of \$10 per member per month instead of raising dues. An increase in dues seemed distasteful to many members contacted and dining room assessments were a common practice in many other clubs.

The golf course was rated by the Oregon Golf Association to provide a basis for handicap parity with members of other clubs or when our members visit and play away from Astoria. This has now become almost universal under the aegis of the United States Golf Association and the Golf Handicap and Information Network.

I cannot close without expressing my deep appreciation to the members of the Board who served with me and who gave me their unstinting efforts and support. In particular I would like to thank Bill Van Dusen and George Hediger who devoted so much time and effort on behalf of the Club.

An important change in membership classifications came about in 1971 when the Board informed non-resident members that applications for proprietary memberships would be available for those outside the county. Denial of this privilege in past years had been based on the belief that allowing such status to non residents would allow a potential coalition to form and take over affairs of the club from those residing locally. Some said this stemmed from the depression years when membership in the club was said to have been reduced to 49 regular paid-up members.

Memberships were now \$750 but there was also a time payment plan for those not wishing to pay in cash. This provided that \$150 should accompany the application and the balance could be paid monthly with the addition of 8½% interest.

— J. Wilson Johnston, Brig. Gen. U.S. Army (Ret.)



Eugene Knutsen

1972

1972

Eugene Knutsen tells of 1972.

The Board of Directors for this year was made up of Harvey Mills, Walter Peterson, Paul Baldwin, Gene Lowe, Bob Grant, Will Monnes, Don Edy, and Bill Larson. Tom McDonough was club manager; Kenny Wrenn was Chairman of the Coast Tournament and Walt Peterson was his assistant.

In January of 1972 we leased the field north of the fourth green from the Oregon National Guard but for some reason it has not been renewed.

George Hediger was chairman of the House Committee. That was the only year up to that time the restaurant had shown a profit.

Tom McDonough came up to my house on June 9th and said that he wanted to resign as he had a better job at the Spokane Country Club which was to start on July 15th.

At a special meeting on June 12, 1972 we accepted Arthur Young and Co. to audit our books. They were all found in proper order.

Dan Sherman was made club manager.

In 1972 costs were rising on all aspects of the Coast Tournament and the entry fee was raised to \$50.00. In spite of this increase there was a full field of 320 players when the annual event was staged in July.

1973

Will Monnes tells of his presidency.

One of the most significant developments which faced the Board of Directors was to separate the 4th green from the 5th tee. A serious hazard existed due to the proximity of this green and tee. After a great deal of study we determined that we should move the 5th tee area away from the green (rather than move the green). We concluded, after much thought by the Board, as well as most valuable input by the membership, that we should increase the size of the 5th tee – filling in an area into the lake, which gave us an additional 24 feet for our tee area. This allowed us to separate the green from the tee, and also brought the lake into play on our tee shots.



**Willard F.
Monnes**

1973-74

The cost of this project was taken care of by a voluntary membership contribution program that brought into the club \$4,140.

Another improvement was the removal of the well remembered "chick-sale" which was removed and replaced by the existing restroom near the 4th tee.

We established a "home and home" directors meeting with directors of Portland based country clubs. This gave us a chance to discuss matters of mutual interest pertaining to club operation, management and course maintenance. Our first meeting was with the directors of the Riverside Golf and Country Club in Portland on April 19, 1973; they returned to visit Astoria Golf and Country Club in September 1973.

* A very important decision, made by the Board of Directors, which had a favorable impact on our Club, was to select Dan Sherman as Club Manager and John Mattingly as Chef de Cuisine.

The highlight of our year happened on July 18, 1973, when we observed our Club's 50th Anniversary, a day long party, with some golf.

This was a time when serious financial obstacles had to be met, having just recently moved into a new clubhouse, with a new mortgage payment, but those obstacles did not really deter the Board of Directors, or the membership, in keeping our club healthy and vibrant.

There were indications that inflation was adding to the costs of operating the club and this was evident in the operation of the dining room which had been open for both lunches and dinners since the opening of the new clubhouse. The question of the profit or loss of this phase of club operation took over much of the time of the Board from month to month in an effort to keep up with the cost spiral.

The popularity of our golf course with those outside the county was apparent when the Board announced that the limit had been reached for non-resident members. This category of membership at this point of time required only that the applicant reside outside Clatsop County.

The year ended with 322 regular members and 113 non-resident. Other classifications made the total 612

1974

Will Monnes was serving a second term.

The spiraling inflation of the times was a recurring problem. To cope with rising costs it was necessary to raise dues in all classifications. Costs were rising for labor, supplies, maintenance and every other phase of club operation.

There was a slight change in the golf course when the fifth tee was moved twenty-four feet south and west on the shores of Neacoxie Lake. Trees were planted alongside this new tee to offer protection from balls being hit from the fourth tee. There was no change in the fourth green but some had advocated moving it to the north in the space occupied by the tree nursery. The change of tee location was to cost \$1,500.

There was a membership drive in August and September which was pronounced a success. Guest cards were to be issued by a committee and those securing new members would receive a credit on their dues.

With the number of electric and gas carts rising each year there were problems associated with the use of these vehicles on fairways. This was particularly true on such as No. 3 and No. 15 with the steep hillsides and narrow fairways. So this was the year that cart paths were constructed on such holes in an effort to protect the turf from cart wear and tear.

1975

Kenneth Wrenn was president.

1975 was another good year for the Astoria Golf and Country Club in all respects; economically, socially and golfing activity. We were able to report at the annual meeting that the financial condition of the club was better than it had ever been.

We tried to hold down the number of outside tournaments and gave consideration only to those causing no inconvenience to our own members. We recognized that such scheduling added considerably to our financial success. Without these events with the added revenue from golf, dining room and bar perhaps it would have been necessary to ask our membership for a dues increase.



**Kenneth E.
Wrenn**

1975

The club staged a very successful mixed two ball invitational. We hosted the annual Oregon Junior Tournament during the year with a full field of youngsters from all parts of the state. And a full field of participants was on hand for the annual Oregon Coast Tournament in July, the total numbering 336 players from 65 golf clubs in all parts of the Western United States. The popularity of this annual event is evidenced by the fact that all divisions, except women's, were filled one month prior to the start of the event. Breakfast Club continued to be popular with over 100 participating on several occasions.

Improvements were made to the clubhouse in the lounge and dining room, mainly the installation of new drapes, these being made possible by a substantial contribution from the women's group. New carpeting was authorized for the dining room and lounge.

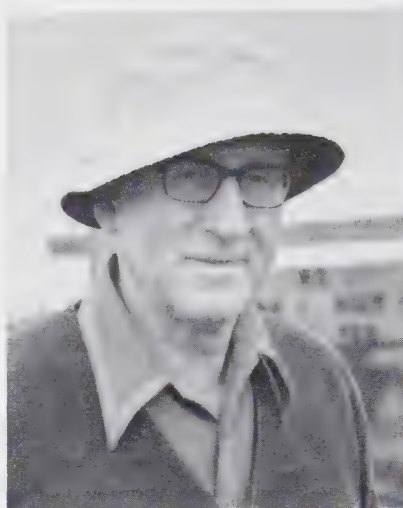
The golf course was not neglected in our action and planning. A new fertilizer program was undertaken and the addition of a new mower helped keep our greens smooth and playable.

Despite some disruption in population shifts on the North Coast which resulted in some losses in certain membership categories we held our own and made some gains. We began the year with 610 in all classes and ended with 645.

Many golf clubs in Oregon, and elsewhere, were wrestling with the question of whether golf carts should be owned by members or operated as rental units by the club. This topic furnished the main subject of discussion at several Board meetings. The final decision was to allow individual ownership of the golf vehicles and the resultant need for additional storage space was a constant one, and has occupied the time of most successor Boards. It appears at this writing that we are one of the few clubs in Oregon allowing private ownership.

This was the year when some of our golfers gave up their golf clubs for a shotgun. A huge flock of coots settled on Neacoxie Lake alongside the fifth fairway and gave every indication that this was to be a permanent home. What is a coot? The dictionary says it is a bird of the rail family. They make their home on the water and some might say they are a type of duck. But in no time they had stripped the fifth fairway clean of grass and permanent damage was in sight for numbers six and seven as well. Wildlife officials said they were protected and couldn't be killed. If not that, could we try to scare them away? Getting the nod for this remedy, the call went out to the membership to lend their shotguns for the assault on the coots. So for a week or more the coot hunters stood on the bank between five and six and fired away, but always into the air. The scare tactic was effective and the coots flew away, apparently to greener pastures where feeding habits would not be interrupted by shotgun blasts from irate golfers.

President Kenneth Wrenn suggested that a sign be placed at the entrance to the club identifying the location of AG&CC. Kenny then designed the attractive sign in place today along Sunset Beach Road and the parking lot. Crown Zellerbach donated the material needed for the project.



**Richard
Schroeder**

1976

1976

Inflation was creeping up on the club and rising costs in every department foretold the need to create additional sources of revenue to stay in the black. Reluctantly the Board raised the dues of proprietary members to \$36 and upped the ante for non-residents to \$25.

Frank Berg, an Astoria druggist, was in the first foursome to tee off on the new golf course in June of 1924. He later left the North Coast in his retirement years and spent his last days at Walnut Creek, California. After the settlement of his estate his widow gave the club the sum of \$2,000 as an unrestricted gift to be used "for the betterment of the facilities." After considering all possibilities for the best use of the money it was decided to create a patio adjacent to the clubhouse and the 10th tee. It is used frequently during the summer months for cookouts and other outdoor events. A small marker recognizes the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Berg.

1977

Jerry McCallister tells of events of this year.

Some long needed improvements to the golf course were undertaken and completed during this year. There was a major start on cart paths to accommodate the ever increasing use of motorized golf carts. The Board also undertook projects for the rebuilding of the tees on Numbers Nine, Six and Fifteen. By the end of the year many of these improvements had been made and we were proud to announce to the membership at the annual meeting that the golf course was in great shape. No small part of these course improvements was due to the addition of new maintenance equipment which enabled the grounds crew to work more efficiently.

There was increasing pressure from many outside groups and organizations to utilize the facilities of our club for outside tournaments. At times these requests seem to indicate that golfers like to come to the beach and, particularly, to play our course. The Board made every effort to balance the requests to allow the club to benefit financially from this outside money against precluding the use of the course by our own members.

Despite some substantial outlays of money for improvements to the golf course and the club facilities we were able to close the year in good financial shape. Both the bar and the dining room turned a profit for the year.

Breakfast Club continued to be a popular monthly event, averaging eighty-five members and guests. Some two hundred of our members were enrolled in the club and played one or more times during the year.

The Coast Tournament maintained the popularity usually accorded this outstanding golf event. 352 players, a full complement in each playing category, representing some 75 golf clubs, teed off in the annual July event. All playing slots were filled a month in advance.

The sport of tennis had been gaining in popularity with the American public and this interest was reflected in some members of AG&CC. There was some agitation among interested players to build additions to the club facilities to permit tennis operation. The Board decided to test the membership with a questionnaire to ascertain whether or not such facilities should be included in the club's sphere of activities. Results of this survey indicated that the response was negative for the most part. Some estimates indicated the covered facilities for tennis might run from eighty to one hundred thousand dollars.

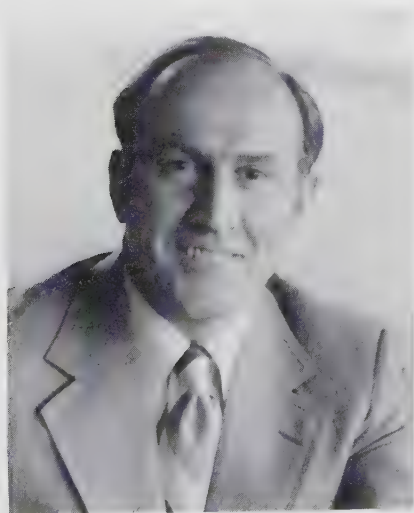
The era of the Lektro golf cart was nearing an end. This vehicle was no longer manufactured locally and those still operating were fast wearing out. It was impossible to obtain parts and those being retired were saved for later salvaging for usable replacement units. But there are several of these old timers still making the rounds.

There were 702 members at the end of 1977.

1978

Jerry McCallister was serving a second year as President.

The work of paving club facilities continued with surfacing of the upper and lower parking lots. In addition cart paths on the golf course were extended with paved surfaces. Cart storage areas were increased making



**Jerry K.
McCallister**

1977-78

more space available for vehicles of members. While many golf clubs in Oregon were converting to club owned golf vehicles AG&CC remained one of the few allowing private ownership.

Many of the old Lektro golf carts which had been used as rentals under ownership of the club were retired. In place of these ancient vehicles we purchased ten new EZ-Gos to add to our fleet. This measurably increased cart rental fees and reduced our costs of keeping the fleet operating.

Improvements to the clubhouse were not neglected and effort effort was made to make our facility more functional and convenient. Some new carpeting was added and refurbishing of the interior appointments and furniture was accomplished.

All of these improvements meant that capital expenditures were high but the Board felt all such investments were needed to maintain the utility and beauty of the club and facilities. We were able to report to the annual meeting that the club was in good shape financially and that all long and short term debt obligations were under control. A modest dues increase late in 1977 had eased the crunch on the cash flow brought on by club improvements.

Like Boards of other years we wrestled with the problem of our status with IRS and other taxing agencies. IRS ruled we were to be classed as a profit making organization. Members were urged to contact elected representatives to urge legislation permitting club dues to be permitted as a business expense.

Someone was interested in the location of the handicap holes and drew comparisons between those designated in 1927 as contrasted with 1977. Only the first five were given.

	1927	1977	1993
Handicap Hole No. 1	9	13	5
Handicap Hole No. 2	11	7	11
Handicap Hole No. 3	5	11	7
Handicap Hole No. 4	14	1	14
Handicap Hole No. 5	1	14	9

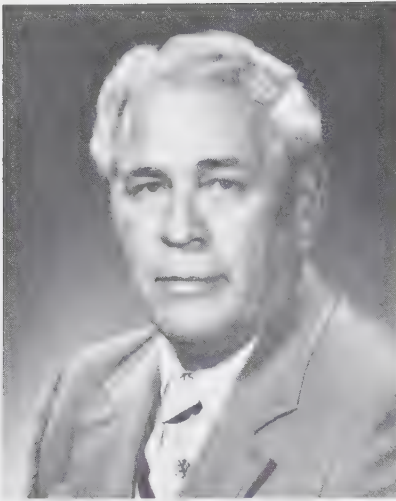
This year an issue of Golf Digest surveyed the golf courses in Oregon and came up with what that magazine considered the five outstanding ones in the state. The listing refused to choose any of the five as the best. Rather the courses were listed in alphabetical order. The elite thus chosen were Eugene Country Club, Illahee at Salem, Portland Golf Club, Toketee at Blue River on the McKenzie River east of Eugene, and Astoria Golf and Country Club.

707 members in 1978.

1979

Bob Elsensohn recalls.

When I first received the request to provide a review of the actions of the 1979 President and Board of Directors for inclusion in a projected history "nothing of consequence happened – two lines, maximum."



**Robert O.
Elsensohn**

1979

A review of the various board meeting minutes, so graciously provided by the club office, confirmed my original conclusion. The only items worthy of note appear to be that the Oregon Coast Tournament netted for the club nearly \$14,000 and Alan Morris was replaced by Bill Winslow as Greens Superintendent.

My year as President was relatively simple and easy as the Club was well served by a competent and dedicated Board. I'm sure the members sincerely appreciated this as they were not called upon to make any momentous decisions. We were all able to enjoy our golfing and the amenities of the facility without interruption or undue hardship. I even managed to drive the first ball off #1 in the Oregon Coast in a manner that didn't inflict everlasting shame on my family.

The club showed a steady increase in total membership.

During this year one of the most popular local events was begun with the introduction into the monthly schedule of the Retired Golfers. It was evident that this filled a need for those who had given up their day to day tasks in the business world but planned to spend their retirement years with golf as a hobby. The monthly program started off slowly with perhaps 20 to 25 in the field. As the year progressed the numbers grew and normally today around 50 turn out to test their skills against men of their own age.

The pressure was still on the club to deal with the rapidly escalating costs brought on by inflation. To meet this challenge the Board found it necessary to raise dues of regular members to \$46 and the non-resident fee was upped to \$35.

We could count 740 members at close of the year.

1980

Sion Wentworth wielded the gavel.

The highlights of the 1980 year were mostly centered around the golf course itself. The Greens Committee, headed by Jack Foster in '80 and Bob Bradley in '79, made some great decisions, such as the hiring of Bill Winslow and an entire new golf course maintenance crew. If you can think back to 1977-78, our course was in

trouble; irrigation system shot, greens soggy and unplayable, fairway lakes on some holes such as 18 almost half the length of the fairway; in a nutshell, our course was a mess.

In a year's time Bill Winslow, the Greens Committee, and Dr. Norm Goetze, OSU Agronomy Department, had gotten together and made some great decisions. New equipment sliced through the thatch and allowed the grass to grow, new pluggers allowed the water to seep through the greens, new mowers made it possible to control the height of the grass so we could maintain a green course. They had to get new pumps for the irrigation system and they redid the lines to make them more effective. Sump holes to drain the fairways.

All of this brought on the increased use of our golf course, the increased membership, and the continued rise in status of our fine club.

This was the year of the big blow from Mt. St. Helens. The mountain, perhaps 50 or 60 air miles from AG&CC, spewed a dense cloud of smoke, debris and ash as the top blew off this unit of the Cascade Range. The day the volcano blew its stack the prevailing winds were from the southwest and the cloud was carried to the northeast with most of the fallout in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. Effects were felt as far as Western Montana and some scientists recorded passage of the cloud around most of the world. Some golf courses in Eastern Washington were the better part of a year digging out and renewing their greens and fairways.

Several days after the big blow the winds changed and came from the northeast. The crater was still giving off ash and debris and some of this settled on the North Coast. There was no damage to our golf course from this light fallout but for a time we had gray fairways and greens.

The Board this year called on the services of Dr. Norman Goetze, an agronomist from Oregon State University, to survey the entire course and make such recommendations as he might see fit that would improve the growing conditions on the links. Dr. Goetze spent several days with Greenskeeper Bill Winslow, surveying present practices and making suggestions for improvements in course management.



Sion Wentworth

1980

The Coast Tournament was a smashing success. Entries received totalled 414 representing 75 golf clubs.

Total membership as the year closed stood at 749.

1981

Ted Bellingham offers these recollections.

As we review the year 1981, we are again impressed with the willingness of our members to contribute their time and knowledge to the betterment of our golf club. Typical is the records of the House Committee, which group met eleven times during the year to review activities within the club properties. This type of service makes the job of the Board much easier.

The Board made an effort during the year to set a sound financial course which was eased by the careful attention to finances which had been carried forward by the 1980 directors. The success of the overall financial planning and management is reflected in a successful profit year for both the bar and dining room operations. We were able to report to the annual meeting that the club had been on the black side of the ledger during the entire year.

The participation of the staff and membership in operation of the club gave us what I consider to be the best golf club for the best price in the Pacific Northwest. And this opinion is expressed only after visits to many of the better clubs in the area.

The Board ordered a major policy change during the year which was to be implemented in the coming year. This was to be an interest charge to be added to accounts of members more than 90 days after the due date. The Board considers this to be the only fair and equitable manner to handle aging accounts.

In spite of inflation and rising costs in all areas of the club operations we were able to finish the year without a dues increase.

Membership continued on the rise and the year ended with a dramatic increase. We had 749 members in 1980 and this rose to 780 in 1981. The total includes all categories.

The ladies of the club gave substantially of time and money to upgrade the clubhouse. Through their efforts the drapes in the bar were replaced and ample funds were allocated from this source to complete the decoration plans for the dining room.

While this attention was being given to the clubhouse the golf course was not neglected during the year and significant improvements were made in several areas. Drainage has always been a problem due to our heavy rainfall in the winter months. Many muddy spots were eliminated and low lying areas were treated to afford better runoff. The greens and tree nursery became a reality and sufficient space was leased from Clatsop County to follow through with replacement trees so necessary after violent winter storms.

Junior golf continued to be a primary effort of our overall golfing program. The Board encouraged this activity as one which is essential to the growth and future success of our golf club.



Ted Bellingham

1981

The Breakfast Club continued to be a successful and enjoyable function of our golfing calendar each month. The top day was in August when 116 participated in the day's play. This was contrasted with a rainy Sunday in April but the total, even under those conditions, was 68. Average play for the year was 95 and this represents a sizable segment of our golfing membership.

Players in the Lyder Cup have long been welcome guests for their weekend of golf and fun on the North Coast and AG&CC. Perhaps you have noted the inscription on the ball washers on many of our tees which state that this handy gadget came from the R.H.A. & S.C. This is their shorthand for the Raleigh Hill Athletic and Social Club. Originally it was organized by a group of golfing friends who lived in the Raleigh Hills area of Portland which is in the vicinity of Portland Golf Club. Somehow or other the name was changed to the Lyder Cup and the annual trek to the beach and play at AG&CC became traditional events. So in 1981 they decided to repay AG&CC for the hospitality extended and donated the golf ball washers. In 1990 they again provided a needed accessory with the gift of the flag pole which towers over the first tee. Thanks, Lyder Cup and R.H.A. & S.C.!

The Oregon Coast Tournament was a great success and the entry fee this year was raised to \$125.

At the Annual Meeting it was reported the membership totalled 780.

1982

Dale Dickinson remembers.

The year 1982 was a good one for the club. Plans were made for many improvements on the golf course and we had an outstanding social year.

The question of tennis courts and racquet ball facilities again was raised by those who wished to add such facilities to the athletic program of the club. But there seemed to be no overwhelming demand from the majority of our membership and no action was taken to add these other sports to those already offered by present accommodations.

There was preliminary planning for the ultimate paving of cart paths over the entire 18 holes. But this was to be accomplished over the long range and paid for as money became available in an earmarked trail fee fund. The results of this look ahead are evident today as most of the work has now been completed.

There was an offer by the banks to rewrite the mortgage indebtedness of the club. As a result of negotiations the loans were rewritten at an interest rate of prime plus one percent, with a floor of 10%. This would result in an interest rate of 13% on the unpaid balance.

This was a year of some great stags. On one occasion we hosted representatives and players of the Seattle Supersonics and Portland Trailblazers. Still another successful event was a reunion of the University of Oregon "Tall Firs" basketball team of 1936. Four of the original squad had been from Astoria and our own member, Evert McNeeley, had long been a local resident and golfer after college days. Coach Howard Hobson was present along with officials from the University of Oregon to hail these NCAA champions of another year.

This also gave us an opportunity to honor one of our own, Neil Morfitt, a charter member of the club and a past president, who was a guest of honor and feted as one of the two surviving members of the University of Oregon Rose Bowl football team of 1920.

For the June stag we hosted and honored past champions of the Oregon Coast Tournament. We had a goodly number of past winners reaching back to the 1940's. And each of our members had an opportunity to play with a champion. All in all, we had 180 golfers out that day.

Membership continued on the rise as we had 804 at the end of the year.

1983

Jeffrey N. Leinassar, vice president, recalls events of this year for Vern Minkler, deceased.

The 1983 board began the year by accepting to host the 1983 OGA Team Championship Tournament. Golf course improvements included the greenside bunker on the left of #16 and the cart path going around the back



Vern Minkler

1983

of #7. The construction of the new restroom facility between #12 tee and #13 green was completed. Also, new local path rules were developed for holes #3 and #15.

In-house improvements were the installation of the new computer system and the development of design plans for the remodeling of the kitchen, dining room, and deck.

A Junior Golf policy was initiated to give access to the club for non-member high school kids upon recommendation from their coach or principal. Golf cart rentals and maintenance were put under the supervision of the Pro Shop.

The club championship format was changed from match play to medal play for the following year to consist of 54 holes.

There were questions raised by some of our members with regard to outside tournaments and there were some complaints that we had too many, thus depriving our own members of the use of the golf course. The Board gave this serious consideration and agreed to make every effort to give their approval to only those which would bring revenue to the club and not inconvenience our own members.

New storage facilities for golf carts of members were also discussed at some length and plans were made to provide such parking as might be possible with available space and funds.

The social events of the club plus outside functions indicated that some changes be made in the dining room and kitchen facilities. So there was preliminary talk about enlarging the dining room and making more room in the kitchen. With these changes in view there were some negotiations underway to secure a loan of about \$160,000, the estimated cost of the improvements.

Final count on membership was 843, a gain of 44.

1984

The 1984 Board of Directors: James Stroup, President, Kent Price, Ed White, Charles Mooney, Paul Kauttu, Arthur Chan, John Supple, Harvey Pekkala, and Dan Van Dusen.



Dale Dickinson

1982

The 1984 Board of Directors had the unique experience of realizing the culmination of a dream and participating in the steps leading to a long established need for expanded facilities in the clubhouse. The dream was realized when the indebtedness of the clubhouse, built in 1970, was fully and completely paid off on schedule. The event was celebrated in proper fashion with a gala party to honor the event by "burning the mortgage."

Since 1970 the membership of the club has doubled and events and daily use of the club facilities has increased in the same ratio. There was a very evident need to expand the dining room facilities and add space and new equipment in the kitchen. The Board gave serious consideration to all these needs and unanimously approved the plans to go forward with the improvement. These provided additional seating space in the dining room by extending the windows to the west and construction of a new entrance to the bar overlooking the 18th green.

Both of these accomplishments were made possible as the result of careful management while still maintaining the lowest dues structure in the state. The financing of the new dining room and kitchen facilities was carefully considered by the Finance Committee and the best possible package was worked out with local financial institutions.

The leased land adjacent to the 7th fairway was to be allowed to return to Clatsop County as the Board did not feel that the expense of carrying the obligation was justified.

Tax problems were still with us and during the year a final study was undertaken to determine the tax relationship with both the Federal Government and the State of Oregon. This study was deemed necessary due to changes in the law and regulations which caused us to re-examine our status as profit or non-profit with both agencies of government.

The Board kept a tight rein on the budget and a review at the end of the year shows that the club had ample funds to operate within the scope of the proposed budgeted expenses. The Board took satisfaction from this phase of the annual report which was accomplished despite some somewhat downward trends of food and bar sales.

The matter of storage for members' golf carts was still a problem but the addition of a new shed was accomplished during the year to somewhat relieve the pressure for more space. A waiting list had been established to ensure fairness in allocating space.

The Golf Committee reported that there were fewer outside tournaments than the year previous reaching a goal that the club would only host such tournaments that conveniently fit into the Club's schedule, which would produce income to the Club, and cause a minimum of inconvenience to the course for our members.

Junior Golf was a huge success this year with 90 youngsters, children and grandchildren of members, participating each Monday morning. The Pro Shop responded to this increased interest on the part of the area youth with additional lessons and new programs.



Jim Stroup

1984

The Coast Tournament continued to be one of the more popular events in Oregon with a full field of participants in all groups and age brackets. In addition the Club realized a profit of over \$19,000 from the tournament.

The golf course proper was not overlooked and new cart paths were installed during the year as a part of the continuing commitment to provide enough paths on the entire course to protect the turf in even the rainy seasons.

One of the goals of the Greens Committee during the year was to improve the quality of our sand traps. To accomplish this the bunkers were upgraded with the addition of more and better sand.

We ended the year with 882 members. Regular memberships held nearly steady and the only bracket to show a loss was in the over 65 Social membership classification with a drop to 105 from 119.

All in all it was an excellent year for the Club and the Board feels that much was accomplished to reflect the past and pave the way for an even brighter future.

There were four-footed marauders on the golf course this year as herds of elk were trampling greens and fairways. Various remedies were tried to fend them off such as a noxious smelling chemical which is hung in cloth sacks around the greens. As they are a protected species, except in the fall hunting season, there is little that can be done except to hope they go away.

Planning was going ahead on the kitchen and dining room changes. Dining room enlargement was now estimated to cost \$186,000 and the kitchen and dining room alterations were finally budgeted at \$199,461.

There was still talk of the tax status of the club, a problem which had existed since the founding days.

There had been complaints that a traffic hazard existed at the entrance of the club. The bluff under the 10th green made a blind corner for those leaving the parking lot and a hazard for approaching traffic from the west on Sunset Beach Road. The simple solution to the problem would be to just take off a portion of the hill to give motor vehicle traffic a clear view. But Big Brother stepped in at this point and waved a warning finger.

They told us this was the site of an ancient Indian burial ground and could not be disturbed unless permission was received from the proper Federal authority. The blind corner is still there but we have one way traffic going out and coming in the parking lot of the club.

882 members in this year's membership count.

1985

John J. Supple, 1985 President reports.

During my tenure as President in 1985 a milestone was reached for the first time in the Club's history. The Proprietary membership of 350 was attained with a waiting list. Many of us remember how desperate the Club was for dues paying members. I joined in 1952 at the then \$330 fee which was paid like \$10 per month with nothing down and zero interest on the balance. I understand from others that during the 30's much better deals were available with few takers.

I am proud to have made my small contribution to the on-going success of our country club. The perseverance of our Board in 1985 and those Boards dating back to 1924 should all be justly proud of their accomplishments which resulted in what we have today: a full membership with many clamoring for admission, a great golf course, a well managed club and, best yet, a great group of members.

Over the years I believe the most important result of the ups and downs of the club was the retention of a broad cross section of our community which includes the blue collar working man all the way to the rich and famous. That alone is outstanding and probably not shared by many clubs in our country. I am happy to be associated with such good people.

Membership classifications through the years had regarded those qualifying as non-residents as having their residence outside Clatsop County. This had resulted in a situation where a resident of Megler on the Washington side of the Astoria Bridge could qualify as a non-resident. But his counterpart golfer, who chose to live in Astoria, could not come under this rule and be entitled to the lower fees. To correct this inequitable situation the Board established new limits which drew a

circle sixty miles in circumference and required future applicants for non-resident status to be domiciled outside this range. So the present limits are now somewhere around Forest Grove, range east past Longview, north toward Raymond, Washington, and south of Tillamook.

It was also decided that there should be limits placed on memberships to avoid overcrowding of the golf course. The Board set forth the rule that henceforth proprietary members would be limited to 400 and non-residents to 150.

1986

Highlights of the Year, Kent Price, President.

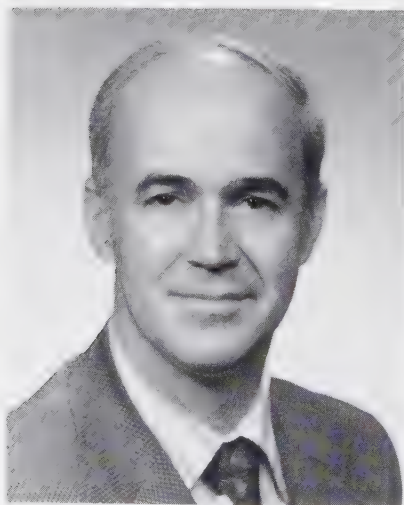
At our first Board meeting we were confronted with the resignation of Dan Sherman, our Manager for 16 years. This was unexpected as he had declined to move the previous year to Portland Golf Club. A strong committee was formed to conduct a search headed by Dan Van Dusen, the chairman of our House Committee. After many resumes and interviews, our Chef, John Mattingly, was selected as manager rather than bringing in a more experienced manager from afar. During the year various members of the Board worked closely with the new manager to help with his indoctrination.

At our second board meeting we received a request from Mike Stoll and Peter Jacobsen to stage a pro-am in August at Astoria with many top PGA pros participating. This was to be a tie-in with the first Fred Meyer Classic with the Pros coming early and playing on Saturday at Astoria and on Sunday at Bend Country Club. Then on Monday they would have their two-day Classic at Portland. The idea was to show off Oregon to the Pros and eventually with TV coverage to the whole country.

The Board was enthusiastic about the opportunity but felt that members should be reimbursed for loss of playing time during the peak season. A contract was negotiated whereby the Club received close to \$5,000 for the use of the course plus the extra work required by the greens crew. In addition if the tournament proved to be a success some of the profit was to go to Clatsop County charities. Although not successful enough for local charities to benefit, the event was a success for the Club viewpoint with an opportunity for the members to meet and watch many of the top Pros including Peter Jacobsen, Fuzzy Zoeller, Fred Couples, Sam Snead, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Phil Hancock, and Charles Coody.

In settling into the basic Club operation our Board felt that after several years of major capital expenditures this was to be a year to solidify our financial position in an effort to work towards cash reserves for future projects rather than continuing to borrow and to pay interest. The Board established goals as follows:

1. Not to disrupt our successful operation with major changes.
2. To live within our budget and not create any new debt.



John J. Supple

1985



Kent Price

1986

3. To make the dining room and Clubhouse events more attractive so as to increase the usage by members.

4. To continue to maintain and gradually improve the course.

5. To reach and maintain a full membership and to reduce outside play.

We succeeded in all five goals and were so successful in #5 that we had to spend quite a bit of time in setting priorities in membership applications and in use of Club facilities such as golf play, cart storage, and lockers.

Working with the Board and all members at Astoria Golf and Country Club was a great experience for me and one of the highlights of my adult life.

Total membership was 952 at the close of the year.

The popularity of the Oregon Coast Tournament was posing some problems for the Board. There was a full quota of entries each year months before the tee-off time in July and a waiting list had to be established to accommodate those who failed to send in the entry blank and fees in time to be included. There were always some who dropped out at the last minute but this attrition did not satisfy all those who wished to play in this traditional golf event. So the Board this year ordered a study of the whole operation of the Coast Tournament and some of the changes in this study have been evident in a smoother operation with more entry slots, the Super Seniors being an example.

There was a further report on the condition of the golf course from Dr. Norman Goetze, the agronomist from Oregon State University. Paying a return visit after his tour of some years back he noted the efforts that had been put forth by Greenskeeper Bill Winslow and his crew. Noting that many of his recommendations had been put into practice, Dr. Goetze stated: "With a few minor changes the quality of play at Astoria will be unsurpassed. In recognition for his service and advice to the club the Board awarded Dr. Goetze with an Honorary membership.

1987

This is a summary of 1987 from Dr. Fred Smith, President.

The major undertaking of my year as President was the planning and completion of the total renovation of the bar. In doing so, the serving and storage capacity was greatly improved.

Our proprietary membership was full with approximately 75 on the waiting list. At our annual meeting a proposal was made and approved to expand our proprietary limit to 400 and to reduce the number of non-residents to 150 by attrition.

The Board felt they were obligated to improve the cart path situation and succeeded in accomplishing this by constructing several new cart paths.

New equipment was added to the inventory to upgrade our already excellent golf course equipment.

Six new carts were added to upgrade our existing 20 carts. Old carts were to be replaced on a rotational basis to ensure the best possible condition of our fleet.

The Board of Directors held the line on new golf tournaments. We felt we had enough outside tournaments and allowed no new ones on weekends in 1987.

We have an outstanding course and equally outstanding clubhouse facilities. Our membership makes this club what it is today. I was happy to serve as president of this fine organization.

The local tournament schedule of holiday events was popular with our members and guests. A survey of players in the Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day events noted that there had been around two hundred players for each tournament.

At the end of the year it was reported to the Annual Meeting that 62 applicants were on the waiting list for proprietary memberships. The gains in every other classification continued strong throughout the year.

For the first time the field in the Oregon Coast Tournament was increased from 320 to the new limit of 400. This included sixteen new slots for the Women's Division and many of the newcomers to the tournament had a handicap of 10 or less.



Fred Smith

1987

A survey of the bar showed that much of the equipment was not only wearing out but was antiquated and inefficient. The Board decided to revamp the entire setup by remodeling the facility. This would include new equipment for providing necessary services. To finance this improvement bids were sought from three banks and the resultant loan from United States National Bank provided \$40,000 at an interest rate of 8%.

Membership totals continued strong and the year ended with 959 names on the roster.

The recurring question of use of the golf course by outside groups continued to be a problem. The Board laid down a ruling instructing the Pro Shop that no outside tournaments would be allowed to start until after 1 p.m. It was hoped that this ruling would reduce interference with play of our own members.

64 names were on the waiting list for proprietary memberships.

1988

Don Cox relates events of this year.

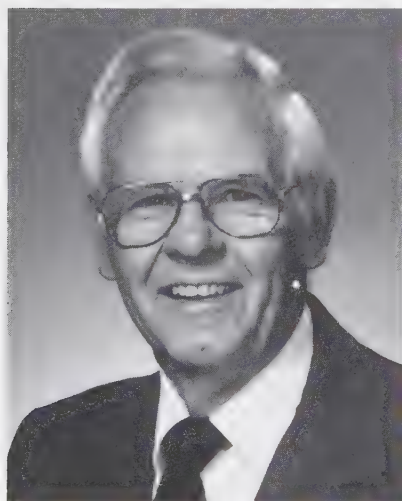
No major changes on the golf course or in the clubhouse were made in 1988. However, a great deal of progress was made in establishing priorities to ensure steady improvement of the entire facility.

The formation of a Long Range Planning Committee became a reality. As a result a survey of the membership was conducted covering virtually every phase of the Club's operation and its facilities. With a 70% response, the membership made a solid expression of their desires concerning the club and the direction it should take. As a result, a task force immediately went to work on how best to upgrade our greens crew maintenance facility.

Our reciprocal agreements with other private clubs were reviewed. As a result, we now extend reciprocal rights only to those clubs that extend them to us.

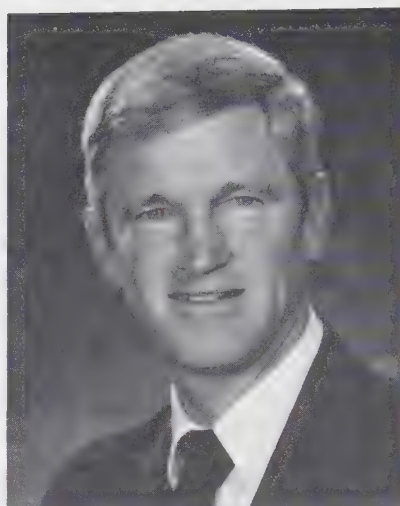
A cart path improvement fund was established from cart storage revenues to assure available funds for maintenance and improvement.

The club maintained its healthy financial condition and steadily reduced its long term indebtedness.



Don Cox

1988



Ed Rippet

1989

We had 1009 members at the close of 1988.

The number of names on the proprietary waiting list was reduced to 40 during the year.

But the popularity of the Oregon Coast Tournament was never stronger. Prior to the tee-off time of the event there had been 487 entries for the 400 available spots.

The summer popularity of our golf course was demonstrated when a count of golfers was compiled for the first 22 days of June. Records kept in the pro shop showed that in this span of time there had been 1900 rounds of golf.

Non-Resident dues were raised to \$65 per month.

1989

Ed Rippet presided over affairs of the club this year.

1989 was a very exciting year. Your Board of Directors took action to replace the maintenance barn by the ninth green. The new facility was constructed on property across the Sunset Beach Road next to the driving range. Mike Maltman Construction built the maintenance facility with plans drawn by Chuck Mooney. The facility provided space for equipment, fertilizers, a workshop and a hazardous chemical storage building.

Our ladies proposed remodeling their locker room with a combination of club funds and funds they raised through operation of the snack tents during the Oregon Coast Tournament.

Over the past two years, long-range planning had become an important item. Knowing that major projects lay ahead of future boards we began accumulating information that might help in their planning. John Steidel, a prominent Northwest golf course architect, completed a golf course master plan. His plan allowed for maintaining the wonderful beauty and character of our course. We also continue to use the USGA greens specialist to evaluate the maintenance and condition of the course. Their ideas were very helpful.

Our proprietary membership category continued to be full at 400 and growth in our social membership category grew to 392 to push our total membership to 1,046.

Dues were increased by \$10 across the board and the proprietary certificate fee was doubled to \$1,500.

Programs for improvement in this year were evidenced both inside and outside the club. The old maintenance building adjacent to the lower putting green was renovated for additional cart space for members and to give the club much needed storage areas.

Experts were brought in to advise the Board on what steps might be necessary to improve circulation of air in the clubhouse.

The Coast Tournament was again a complete success. There were 479 entries for the 400 spots available.

After much discussion a new dress code was adopted and notices of its edicts published prominently in the clubhouse. There were to be no jeans, no collarless shirts, no halter tops, no short shorts or athletic shorts, and no shorts in the dining room in the evening. The Board served notice on members and guests that the new code would be strictly enforced.

There were 80 on the membership waiting lists as of November. 30 were within the 60-mile limit and 44 from outside this boundary line.

The project of improving the women's locker room with new wallpaper, countertops, and reupholstering the furniture was completed at a cost of \$12,000. The women's group came up with about \$6,000 as their share.

Some of our golfers use carts but due to physical disabilities find it difficult to stay within prescribed limits for operation of golf carts. So this year the Board authorized issuance of a special flag to be attached to the person's golf cart and this would be notice that they had more latitude in the area of operation of the cart. This privilege had to be approved by action of the Board.

A new membership classification was approved to be known as Temporary. The applicant must have been in the area for two years and have qualifications for a proprietary member. Dues were to be the same as a regular or junior but the applicant need not apply for a certificate. Dues would include a dining room assessment and the immediate family could use the golf course. He could later apply for a Junior membership if coming within that age group.

Membership totals continued to rise with 1,046 counted as we came to the end of the year.

1990

Rob Mangold was presiding officer.

As we review the year 1990, board members believe it was truly an action-oriented time. Many improvements were made to the physical plant and we approved and activated a total new plan and concept for Pro Shop operations. New heat pumps were installed and double pane windows were installed in the clubhouse to improve the quality of air circulation within the club. The former maintenance building was renovated for additional cart space for members and storage facilities for the club. A new septic system was engineered and approved to resolve a long-standing problem. Our practice range was upgraded. The play of the course was



Rob Mangold

1990

improved with the paving on cart paths on 16 and 14. Similar work will be done from #7 green to the 8th tee.

Much of our activity throughout the year was devoted to study and adoption of long-range improvements. We have passed these plans along to our successors and trust that this planning will anticipate future maintenance and development needs. This program is to be funded by a new capital improvement fund.

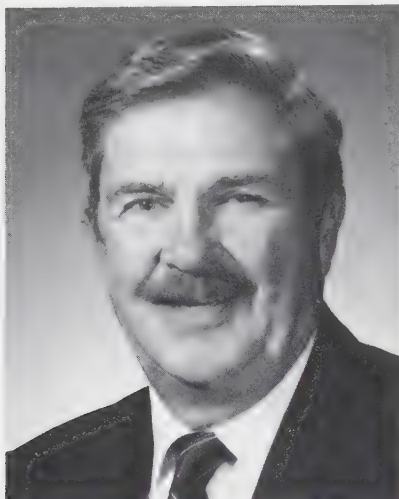
Membership totals continued strong in all categories. We began the year with 1,046 members and found a total of 1,112 at the end of the year. Waiting lists have been established in both proprietary and non-resident classifications, resulting in substantial gains in social memberships. At the close of 1990 there were 50 on the waiting list for proprietary memberships. These 50 lived in a 60-mile radius. In addition there were 38 who lived past the 60-mile limit. Total 88.

In retrospect your 1990 Board considers it to have been a good year and that the club is in good shape to face the future.

To correct a confusing situation regulating the status of non-resident members the Board declared that henceforth the legal domicile of the applicant would be considered the basis for securing such membership status. There had been some question of residence as contrasted with domicile for measuring the classification. The policy of requiring non-resident applicants to live outside a 60-mile radius was continued.

The Retired Golfers continued to be a popular part of the golfing activity of the club. A report to the Board near the end of the year pointed out that these retired guys had averaged 50 players for the 12 meetings held during the year. The home-and-home series with Oswego Lake and Willamette Valley Seniors were reported as becoming increasingly popular.

After study by a committee of Board members a change in by-laws was submitted to the Annual Meeting providing that membership classifications would remove all discriminatory aspects of the by-laws. This change was passed overwhelmingly by the membership.



Fred Van Horn

1991

1991

Fred Van Horn points to highlights of this year.

our goal was to carry on and further define efforts to chart the future course of Club development with Long Range Planning. In the same vein we tried to institute some employee relations improvements via an evaluation system that kept an ever-changing Board of Directors in tune with a stable work force. Jim Wakefield was a key performer in both these areas as he built a large committee, sprinkled with past presidents, to evaluate our current position with our many short term assets to help determine future spending needs.

In both of these areas much progress was made in a relatively short time and we feel we will leave future boards a new and more polished management tool.

We were studying removal of our present offices to a new space to be built over the portico to give the office staff room to function effectively and thus make room in the old offices for the kitchen renovation we have been waiting for.

The office is now tracking 2 million dollars annually and needs computer updates on both hardware and software.

Our new golf shop will end its first year looking very well in its new furniture and expanded line of clubs and fashionable clothing. Mike Gove is bringing notice to our club with good showings in important tournaments, notably, the KATU television fall special that will feature our men's (Don Sheldon) and women's (Jeanie Vasey) Club Champs and Mike playing Sun River North on TV against similar teams from other clubs in the state.

Our efforts to improve the driving range have triggered expanded usage and lessons from the golf staff. The covered tee platform with the ball dispenser makes hitting balls in the rainy off-season practical. This should lead to improved play by the members and more exciting tournaments.

The large waiting list for membership is a tribute to our fine facility and management policies that have kept our costs well below most clubs in the state. The last we feel is good policy in a retirement area such as the

North Coast. It is likely that in the near future these costs will have to inch upward to bring the Club up to more modern standards and to keep the course healthy with more extensive play. We are looking at a plan to add a few more members from the list to help pay for the new structural items and keep the fine group of employees busy tending to our golfing and social needs.

1992

Harry Dichter documents events of 1992.

1992 was a good year for our Club. We made every effort to hear and respond to members.

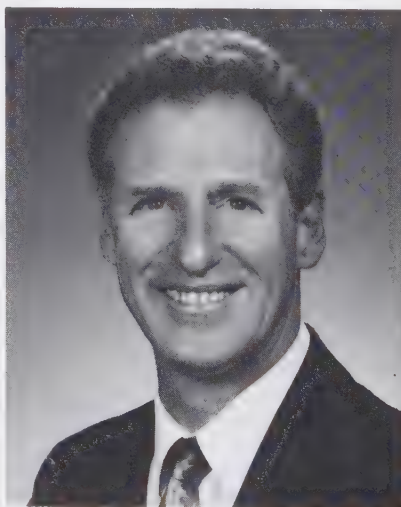
We placed a limit of the number of social members, adjusted fees and times for reciprocal play. We started putting fences around the range to catch errant shots. A Ladies Club Championship was authorized to be in line with the Men's Championship. A test of new sand for the bunkers was approved and will be tried around the 18th green.

The major project for the year was the approval by the members of the expansion of the offices, restrooms, and kitchen. This project has been in the works for several years. It comes together with the capital improvement fund which was created earlier. This fund will fully cover the cost of the expansion with no assessments or dues increases. The fund should be a great way for the club to continue making improvements.

Congratulations were given to our Pro Mike Gove, who won the Oregon Open, the PGA Sectional Championship and was named Player of the Year for the Northwest PGA Section.

Our Club ended the year as much in demand as ever. We had 98 names waiting for proprietary membership with similar lists for other categories.

The 1992 Oregon Coast Tournament again proved that this event continues to be one of the more popular golf competitions in the Pacific Northwest. Indicative of its popularity is that 537 entries had been received for the 400 available slots in the tournament. Again the Coast proved to be a good thing for the club financially, as the final accounting showed a profit of \$24,600.



Harry Dichter

1992

Some financial notes from Board minutes also reveal that the club was endeavoring to keep up with the spiral of inflation. From time to time it has been necessary to raise dues to keep up with rising costs in every phase of club operation. In the matter of proprietary dues it is noted that the monthly fee in 1983 was \$60. In 1984 this was upped to \$65. This rate was continued until 1986 when the level of \$70 was reached. Another rise in 1988 to \$75 and the \$80 level was reached in 1989.

A like raise in the initiation fee to meet inflationary costs was finally decreed in 1987 when the long-standing rate of \$330 was advanced to \$750. Two years later, 1989, a new rate was effected to \$1,500. Finally, in 1991, the present initial fee of \$5,000 was established.

Earlier in this volume a comparison was drawn to show the initiation fees of various well known golf courses in Oregon. The following figures from Board minutes show the trend of increased costs as reflected in present initiation fees. Oregon Golf Club \$40,000; Portland \$35,000; Tualatin \$20,000; Columbia Edge-water \$20,000; Eugene \$25,000; Lake Oswego \$25,000; Royal Oaks \$15,000; Willamette Valley \$15,000; Illahee \$10,000; Rogue Valley \$10,000; Astoria \$5,000.

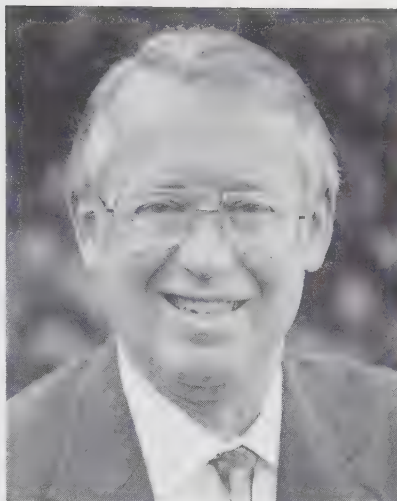
During the year the suggestion was made to the Board that AG&CC should discontinue using the term "St. Andrews of the Pacific." Admitting that both courses were built on sand dunes and oceanside terrain the proponents argued that enough dissimilarity should be adequate reason for deletion of the term from the club logos. Several reasons were advanced as favoring deletion. It was pointed out that St. Andrews does not allow motorized golf carts. Also that the Scottish terrain is without trees. These were but a couple of reasons advanced for the change. Sides were quickly drawn and the Board was deluged with petitions both pro and con as well as many individual expressions favoring or opposing the idea. The controversy continued for some months and a vote in mid-summer decided that the term would continue to be used. Hence you see it displayed on our scorecards and on the cover of this history of the club.

As the year drew to a close the membership count-down showed 98 on the waiting list for proprietary memberships and 53 seeking non-resident status. Total membership in all classifications was 1137, up from 1121 the previous year.

1993

Larry Perkins summarizes 1993 to date and looks to the future.

In recent years Board attention at Astoria Golf and Country Club focused on looking to the future and trying to lay plans for improving the golf course and the physical plant. The 1993 Board, now well into the year of their stewardship, will seek to address the immediate needs of an active golf facility and still try to provide long-range planning to assure the continued look into the future which will provide our future members with an outstanding golf course and supporting facilities.



Larry Perkins

1993

One of the immediate objectives for 1993 will be the renovation and expansion of the clubhouse. No doubt you have seen the plans as sketched by the architect to bring the building into the 21st century which now looms only a few years in the future. Among the most important of these expansion moves will be the enlargement of the club offices, along with new restrooms and expansion of the kitchen facilities. Illustrative of the need for more office space is the fact that the present business office was built with the new clubhouse in 1970 when the membership totalled around 600 members. Today, in the age of computers, four office employees are shoehorned into a single office which would hardly qualify as a bedroom in a modern home.

Expansion is proposed by extending the building to the east and over the driveway. By thus moving the office space there will be additional room in the present structure to permit enlargement of the kitchen facilities and new restrooms. It is hoped that these much needed facilities will be realized in 1993 without too much inconvenience to the membership.

AG&CC is justly proud of our dining room and the spectacular views it offers of our golf course. It is hard to realize that, not so many years ago, the Boards had to wrestle with the problem of providing some sort of meal service with the use of outside caterers. It was not until the opening of the new clubhouse in 1970 that regular service for both lunch and dinner was made available to the membership. The Board will make every effort to continue the dining room as a quality place to eat with superior service and surroundings.

Nor will the golf course be neglected during 1993. Plans now in operation provide for the purchase of a new roller for the greens. There will also be new sand in our traps and some of these will be reconditioned as the year moves along.

All in all, the 1993 Board of Directors has dedicated all efforts to update every phase of activity and continue to offer the traditions of a great golf course. We will look forward to our 70th birthday in July of this year with continued dedication to carrying out the visions of the founders.



Past Presidents, circa 1991. Front row, from left: Vic Horgan, Dale Dickinson, Don Mitchell, Ken Wrenn, Bob Anderson. Standing: Don Cox, Ted Bellingham, Kent Price, Rob Mangold, John Supple, Jerry McCallister, Gene Knutsen, Ed Rippet, Sion Wentworth, George Abrahamsen, Graham Barbey.

The Past Presidents

1924-37	Charles W. Halderman*, Attorney and Astoria Postmaster	1970	Harry R. Swanson, Jr.*, Real Estate, Astoria
1939-46	Sherman W. Lovell*, Automobile Dealer, Lovell Auto Co.	1971	J. Wilson Johnston, Brig. General, U.S. Army, Retired
1947-48	Edward Thompson*, President, Columbia River Packers Assoc.	1972	Eugene Knutsen, Insurance, Astoria
1949	Chester W. Laughlin*, Manager, Lower Columbia Dairy Coop.	1973-74	W.F. Monnes, Real Estate, Ilwaco, WA
1950-53	Graham J. Barbey, President, Barbey Packing Co., Astoria	1975	Kenneth E. Wrenn*, Logging Contractor, Seaside
1953	Guy C. Rea, Manager, U.S. National Bank, Astoria, retired and living in Portland	1976	Richard Schroeder*, Marine Construction, Astoria
1954-56	Vernon E. Fowler, MD*, Associated with his brother, Dr. Frank Fowler, in Fowler Clinic, Astoria	1977-78	Jerry K. McCallister, Attorney, Astoria
1957-58	Thomas R. Williams*, Accountant, operated Astoria-Megler Ferry	1979	Robert O. Elsensohn, Columbia River Bar Pilot
1959	Donovan F. Mitchell, Columbia Oil Co., Astoria and Seaside	1980	Sion Wentworth, Manager, JC Penney Co., Astoria
1960	Blair Henningsgaard*, MD, associated with Fowler Clinic	1981	Ted Bellingham, Timber Products, Warrenton
1961-62	Neil L. Morfitt*, Sales Manager, Lovell Auto Co., Astoria Postmaster	1982	Dale Dickinson, Columbia River Bar Pilot
1963	Robert C. Anderson*, Attorney, Astoria	1983	Vern Minkler*, Industrial Supply
1964	Lester R. Spofford*, Industrial Supplies, Electric Contracting	1984	Jim Stroup, Columbia River Bar Pilot
1965	Victor W. Horgan	1985	John Supple, Fish Packing & Warehousing, Astoria
1966	Donovan F. Mitchell (see 1959)	1986	Kent Price, Realtor, Seaside
1967	J. Frank Maize*, Grocer, Warrenton and Gearhart	1987	Fred Smith, Dentist, Astoria
1968-69	George Abrahamsen, Plumbing and Heating Contractor, Astoria	1988	Don Cox, Pharmacist, Long Beach, WA
		1989	Ed Rippet, Educator, Seaside Schools
		1990	Rob Mangold, Retired Vice President, United Air Lines
		1991	Fred Van Horn
		1992	Harry Dichter
		1993	Larry Perkins, Beverage Distributor

*Deceased

The Professionals

The name, Junior, appears frequently in accounts of early golf in Oregon and Southwest Washington. George Junior was Astoria's first greenskeeper and there is reference to the fact that some of this family were responsible for one of the early golf developments across the river in Pacific County, Washington. The first professional at the Astoria club was John Junior who was here about a year before accepting employment at Portland Golf Club. In August of 1925 the club sought out an Englishman, H.I. Jones, who was then living and working in Medford. He stayed for a period of three years and after his resignation in 1928, the choice for pro was George Beer from Columbia Edgewater. He was hired at \$100 per month but stayed only a few months, resigning in the fall of the same year. But while

he was here his golfing skills set a course record which held up for about a year.

There was no one on the job for several years but a pro named John Deggs came from Gearhart from time to time to give lessons. There is the record of a Mr. Harris serving as the pro for a short time in the early 30's. In the depression years of 1930-36 the members of the club decided they could do without the luxury of a professional staff for it wasn't until June of 1936 that Howard Bonar was hired as the pro. He came from what was then known as Toward Lee, a nine hole course in Long Beach, Washington which had been developed by the Junors, George and John. Subsequently he operated a driving range in Astoria, first located in the Merwyn Hotel Building and later in the basement of the present Van Dusen Building.



Howard Bonar • 1936-50



Ron Caperna • 1950-57



Ed Oldfield • 1958-60



Marlow Quick • 1961-71



Bob Gasper • 1971-91

He was a popular choice and served the club well in various capacities, making the monthly reports, serving as club manager and functioning as the bartender for evening social affairs. Waverley Country Club in Portland called him to be its pro in 1950 and he was succeeded by Ron Caperna who ran the shop until 1957 when he resigned to accept a similar job at Rogue Valley in Medford. Ed Oldfield was his successor and he was to stay for two years before leaving to join the pro tour. It was noted in a golf magazine that he had learned to play in the wind during his tenure at Astoria and that there were no winds on the tour that compared with those off our ocean front and the Columbia River.

Marlow Quick came in 1961 for a ten-year stay. Bob Gasper came from Portland to take over for a period that began in 1971 and was to extend to 1990.

At this writing a young pro with roots in Seattle presides over the pro shop. Mike Gove was an All-American at Weber State University, Utah and spent a number of years on the pro tour. When the call came from Astoria he was the assistant pro at one of the better operations in the Palm Springs area. He took over in July of 1990.



The 1993 Pro Shop Staff

Left to right: Mike Marsden, Head Pro Mike Gove, Mark Visintainer, Tom Dickson.



Greenskeeper Andy Junor, 1924



Greenskeeper George Harvey

The Greenskeepers

George Junor was not only the first greenskeeper, he was also the man who worked with Charley Halderman to lay out the course, who actually shaped the fairways and greens in much the same form as we play them today. He was succeeded by Ted Filbey. Luke Adkins came onto the scene later and often doubled as bartender for evening social events. At the same time his wife Edith was running the lunch room. The club was serving no dinners and meals at night were catered or done to order by Edith Adkins.

In 1927 George Harvey took over the greens department and in 1932 added responsibilities when he was chosen to also act as club manager. Following his retirement the duties of keeping the course in shape were in the hands of Roy Thompson. Upon his death a young man from Emerald Valley, near Eugene, was chosen as his successor. Allen Morse was to be with us until 1980 when he resigned to return to the Eugene area. Present greenskeeper is Bill Winslow who was assistant at Inglewood in Seattle before casting his lot with Astoria. He came in 1980 and brought his father, Les, who now specializes in keeping the fairways mowed and playable. Les also contributes knowledge gained in golf course operation from thirty years as a head greenskeeper.



Superintendent Bill Winslow and his Greens Crew

Course Records

There are few references to the course records in the files of the club. Prior to 1928 it would appear that no one had shot a sensational round to win fame as such title holder. But in that year George Beers was hired as professional, coming from Columbia Edgewater in Portland. He was here only a short time but records of that era show he set a new low score with the exact total not given. The next year, 1929, one of our own members set a new record which is set forth in the Morning Astorian for August 11 of that year. The super golfer of that date was William Palmberg who toured the eighteen holes with a 33-36 for a total of 69. In 1991 Bill Palmberg is still with us and playing a limited amount of golf in his 80's despite the fact that he recently had a hip replacement.

In qualifying rounds of the Astoria Club Championship on August 28, 1955, Ralph Dichter fired a round of 66 which was then the new competitive course record. This despite a bogey on No. 10. But he had three birdies on the front nine and an eagle and two birdies on the back side. And this super round gained him Medalist honors in that year's club championship.

Ralph has made available to us a yellowed clipping from the Oregon Journal of some years back. Unfortunately there is no date to name the year. George Bertz, then editor of the Sports Section, and principal golf writer of the Journal, had compiled a list of course records of most of the better known clubs of the state. They are listed in the areas of competitive and noncompetitive. For Astoria it shows Dr. Ed Palmrose held the noncompetitive record for amateurs with a 66. Ralph Dichter was the record holder for competitive classification with a 67. This, of course, had been superseded by the above mentioned 66 at a later date.

The Journal story then shows course records set by professionals at the various courses. Ron Caperna, at one time pro at Astoria, is credited with a 65 in non-competitive play and Portland pro, Bob Duden, is named the record holder in competitive play with a 67.

On the wall in the pro shop are framed cards of outstanding rounds in other years. Ralph Dichter shot a 64 in a competitive round on June 7, 1967. He was qualifying for the Astoria Club Championship. Randy Heriot has a similar card in the display showing a 64.

Some younger golfers are starting to crowd the old time scores. Randy Heriot had a 63 on August 14, 1990 in noncompetitive play. But this was disallowed as a short putt went in as a "gimme" on the first hole. On another date Ralph Dichter has been credited with 63.

Available records have been diligently searched to determine the course record for women. But results have been negative other than some suppositions. The Daily Astorian for August 15, 1940 tells of Jessie Miller, AGCC member, setting a new mark in the Coast Tournament of that year with a 77. The story also relates that the former mark was a 78 by a Nancy Hurst. But Joan Berkis came up with a competitive record in the Coast in 1980. As medalist she shot an even par for women with a 74.



Ralph "King of the Coast" Dichter with the Club Championship trophy named in his honor.

Perhaps there are other and better scores than those shown here. If so, we would be delighted to set the record straight.

Early Golf Events

With completion of the golf course and play opened in 1924 there was immediately scheduled a series of events involving members of the club. A schedule for 1925 lists the full year's program and included such events as the Budget Trophy, the Ekstrom Trophy, Director's Cup, a special Memorial Day event, the Robinson Trophy as well as the club championships which were held in September. The Shaner Trophy concluded the events of 1925 starting on November first. None of these named golf events have survived the years and the long forgotten trophies were perhaps lost for all time in the fire of 1968. Prominently mentioned in all records is a certain Robinson Trophy, the first match play event. The initial competition was won by Peter Cosovich, later to be Mayor of Astoria. He won the event with a coin flip after being all even at the finish with his opponent. Very early interclubs were started and there seems to have been a warm relationship with Alderwood in Portland. In 1925 Astoria won at home but lost in Portland. There were also matches with Salem Golf Club and one located at Vancouver Barracks.

Astoria women had their own organization which body set forth a schedule of events for lady golfers. There was what was known as the Pinneo Trophy. For whom it was named and the format for the play involved are not known but four women were named as the finalists for this piece of hardware in 1925. The women of the club also had a full schedule of events during the year and were led for a period of time by Mrs. Charles Halderman, who apparently shared her husband's enthusiasm for the game of golf and Astoria Country Club. In those days this group was known as the Women's League.



The Oregon Coast Tournament

1993 marks the 83rd year of what is perhaps the oldest and most prestigious amateur golf event in the State of Oregon. Included in the 1992 field were competitors from many of the United States with Georgia to the east and Hawaii to the west the most distant in recent years. Scheduled to be played the last full week in July the annual Oregon Coast Invitational had its beginnings at Gearhart Golf Course in 1910. How it came to be and what it represents in the golfing history of Oregon is the story of a fine competitive event, mixed with good fellowship and fun over the years.

Gearhart Golf Course is the oldest golf layout in the State of Oregon, dating from 1892. Certainly someone with a Scotch heritage longed for the seashore characteristics of St. Andrews in creating this 18 hole golf facility alongside the Pacific Ocean. The course was utilized mainly for local play and for the pleasure of summer visitors. In the days of sandgreens and rough fairways in other areas it quickly became a favorite for all visitors to the Oregon Coast with a set of golf clubs over their shoulder, offering grass fairways and grass greens. The forerunner of the Oregon Coast Tournament was first dreamed up with the summer season of 1910 and the event was inaugurated on August sixth of that year. It soon became known as the Gearhart Summer Championship. Some indication of the widespread popularity of the event is reflected in some of the early champions. The first event was won by W.B. Mixer whose home, it appears, was Rock Island, Illinois. But it was also noted that he had an affiliation of some sort with Waverley in Portland. He won over G.B. Andrews of Waverley. Mixer had a score of 78-78 while his opponent scored 81-78. Competition in the women's field was also started in this first event with Mrs. Richard Koehler, the women's champion of Oregon, winning over Mrs. V.E. Ayer 2 and 1.

Since that first competition in 1910 many have been the changes that have come about in format as well as name and various classes of player eligibility. But the popularity of this annual tournament by the seashore has never diminished. On the contrary the annual outing, now held at Astoria Golf and Country Club, attracts an even larger list of applicants who seek to be one of the now 400 entries who tee off during the last full week of July. When invitations are received these days the application is never allowed to accumulate with the "junk" mail to be filled out at some later date. As one out-of-town participant explained his procedure to hold his place in the field each year the routine was as follows: "I get home from the office and here is my invitation to the Coast Tournament. I sit down right now and fill out the form. Then I write a check, put both in an envelope, and high tail it to the post office, hoping that it will go out with that day's mail."

The tournament continued to be an annual event at Gearhart with the exception that no competition was held in the war year of 1918. Then for some reason, now shrouded in mystery, there was no tournament in 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930. Gearhart picked it up again in 1931 in spite of the depression and the play became known as the "Annual Coast Midsummer Golf Championship" with the tournament held August 17, 1936.

A change was to come about with the year 1937. The United States Amateur Golf Championship was to be held at Alderwood Golf Club in Portland on August 23-28. For the benefit of those who don't recall this club we might point out that its site is now Portland International Airport. The Portland event conflicted with the Gearhart schedule and the Oregon Coast Tournament was held at Astoria Golf and Country Club on July 24, 1937. This was the first major championship event for the Astoria course. George Will, the defending champion from the previous year at Gearhart defended his title but this first at our course was won by Robert Hofer of Inverness, Seattle.

The play continued at Astoria for the next four years through 1941. No tournaments were held in the war years of 1942-45. When play was picked up in 1946 the competition was moved back to Gearhart by Mr. and Mrs. Vern Lerback, the then owners of the Gearhart Golf Course. This tournament carried an entry fee of \$7.00. No information is available as to what made up the social side of the tournament but we may be sure that much of the fun side of the event occurred at the old Gearhart Hotel.

Obviously it would be impossible to include in this summary of the history of the Coast Tournament, the interesting episodes and occurrences which have made each successive event one which adds to the traditions which have grown up around this popular golfing outing. But a couple of incidents might serve to illustrate some of the trials and tribulations which have beset the tournament along with the pleasant memories which form a part of the allure which has grown up around this annual event.

Consider one of the last tournaments to be held at Gearhart. As usual, it was assumed that a full field of 320 golfers would be on hand to tee off on the 40th anniversary of the Coast Classic. But on opening day some eighteen big name golfers became "no shows" and the result was disappointing in that only 110 players were on the tee for the opening rounds.

The tournament has also been subject to the vagaries of weather. Normally the Oregon Coast is at its best in the latter part of July with cooling breezes drifting in from the nearby Pacific to hold down any threat of heat waves which might be expected in other parts of the

country. But consider the conditions on August 15, 1950 when a gale force storm was unleashed on Clatsop Plains. Participants of that year tell of trying to tee off in the face of the storm, only to see the ball rise a few yards and then come back as though attached to a rubber band. The resulting havoc of the storm forced the cancellation of the play for the day and the balance of the tournament.

In 1951 the event was again scheduled for Gearhart. But just prior to the opening Bill Wilcox, owner of the Gearhart Course, abruptly cancelled the event. The offer was then made to President Graham Barbey and the Board of Directors of the Astoria Golf and Country Club to take over permanent sponsorship of this annual golf outing. The name was shortened to the Oregon Coast Golf Tournament and was registered as an assumed business name with the State of Oregon and the exclusive use of the name was also registered in each of the coastal counties of the state. The sale was also made legal when Wilcox was paid the sum of \$1.00 for all rights to the name and tournament. The last full week of July has always been set aside on the club's schedule of events for the Oregon Coast Tournament.

The entire format of the Oregon Coast Tournament has undergone many changes since the event was moved to Astoria. Gearhart did not have the facilities for extensive social events and the activities which followed golf had to be held in the neighboring hotels and other public places in the area. Astoria had limited facilities in the old clubhouse but even this limited space did not serve to accommodate all the social events of the annual tournament. There was really a crunch for space in the year of the fire which destroyed the old clubhouse. Lacking any area for the entertainment of the visiting golfers, a tent was thrown up adjacent to the pro shop and this temporary facility served as a combination bar and social center. The addition of the new clubhouse in 1970 has eased the need for additional space for entertaining our guests and each year there is some sort of party each night to fete the players in a particular division of the tournament or the entire field. A salmon bake has always been a treat for those from out of town.

With a stepped-up social schedule and the pressures of inflation the costs of the annual tournament have increased with the years. It was mentioned previously that the entry fee for 1946 was \$7.00. Each year the Board of Directors receives a report from the tournament chairman and these reports reflect the ever increasing costs.

There is no way we can pinpoint the year this entry fee was received and the player enrolled, but the late Hugh McCredie of Portland and Columbia Edgewater told the story of a vacation trip to the Coast in the month of July. Being an ardent golfer he asked about reciprocal privileges on his Columbia membership. He was politely informed that this request would normally be granted but that a tournament was scheduled and the course was closed to all other play. So Hugh then posed the question: "How about getting in the tournament?"

The answer was: "Give us ten bucks and you're in." He so enjoyed the Oregon Coast that he thereafter played in it every year until his death.

It would be impossible due to space limitation to detail the events of each Oregon Coast Tournament. But we find an interesting entry in the minutes of the Board in June of 1962. It was proposed at this meeting that each contestant receive two drink tickets and that each would receive an "Oregon Coast Golf Ball." At this date 152 entries had been received and the fee was raised from \$20 to \$25. The club was still not operating a dining room and the dinner was to be catered.

Here is some of the planning of this prestigious event which offers a showcase of Astoria Golf and Country Club and the Lower Columbia area. Invitations will have been mailed early in two stages. The first mailing goes to the members of the club in order that they may be sure of securing a place in the division of their choice. The second mailing goes out to those who have previously played in the annual outing and those who have expressed an interest in joining in the competition. This system of mailings has always resulted in a full field and with a waiting list established for entries received too late to be counted in the original entry list. In 1989 the field was expanded to offer places for 400 golfers. These participants now play in five divisions. These are Grand Championship, Junior-Senior (age 45 and older), Senior (over 55), Women, and the new classification established in 1990 and designated as Super Senior (over 65). Competition is held daily from 7:00 a.m. until dusk so the course has a full load during this week of play.

Astoria has had a big share of winners of the Oregon Coast. Dr. Ed Palmrose in 1934. Robert Anderson won it in '38 and '41. Ralph Dichter earned the affectionate nickname of "King of the Coast" to denote that he had ten championships under his belt in three decades, the 50's, 60's, and 70's. He also was runner-up on eight occasions and never met the same player in the finals on those eighteen trips. Other Astoria golfers who have come in winners are: Bob Canessa '70, Mitch Mooney '79, Jeff Leinassar '80 and '85, Mike Graham '82, and Matt Elmes '88. C. Harold Weston, a member of both Astoria and Portland Golf Club, is a "triple crown" winner in the Oregon Coast. He has taken the title in three divisions over the years, Grand Championship '56, Junior/Senior '71, and Senior '73. The 1990 winner of the Grand Championship, Mike Swingle, claims San Diego as his home. But his roots go deep into Astoria and Clatsop County. His mother, Mary (Knutsen) Swingle is a native of the area and won the Women's Championship three times, taking home the title in 1972, 1973, and 1975, while a resident of Phoenix, Arizona. Her husband, Robert Swingle, won the Grand Championship in 1963.

In the Junior-Senior division, which began in 1950, Astoria Golf and Country Club has had its share of winners: Bob Anderson in 1966; Bob Grant in 1969; C. Harold Weston in 1971; George Abrahamsen in 1973; Ralph Dichter in 1983, 1984 and 1988; and Jon Palmberg in 1991.

We have our share of titles in the Senior division: Millard Rosenblatt, 1952 and 1953; Ed Thompson, 1956; Robert A. Henningsen, 1957; R.J. Nichols, 1960, 1970 and 1971; John Kendall, 1964; Ford Knutsen, 1966; J. Wilson Johnston, 1967 and 1969; C. Harold Weston, 1971 and 1985; Ed Palmrose, 1974, 1975, 1977 and 1983; Ernest Aiken, 1976; and Dr. Ed Zuelke, 1980.

In the Super-Seniors, first played in 1990, Larry Johanns brought home the hardware in 1990 and 1992.

Astoria women have also been in the winner's circle on numerous occasions over the years. Jessie Miller won in 1939 and 1940. Dorothy Burgess was our next winner in 1954. Sybil Bowers claimed the title in 1971. Then Mary Swingle, a native Astorian, won on three occasions, 1972, 1973, and 1975. The 1988 winner, Nancy Kessler, is a granddaughter of Clayton and Fern Morse, long-time members of Astoria Golf and Country Club.

At least four of the champions became regular members of the PGA tour, with two of them winning tour events. One of the Oregon Coast Tournament Champions was also the U.S. Amateur Champion.

Thus the traditions of the Oregon Coast Tournament became more fixed with the passing years. The club ever seeks to modernize the concepts of the format and to improve constantly the mechanics of the golf play and to set new standards for the social side which has become an important part of this traditional event. A host of volunteers start their work well in advance of the opening days and give of their time for a full week with tasks such as serving as marshals, forecaddies, and other necessary chores. The women of the club act as starters on Number 1 and Number 11 tees, maintain the scoreboard, and also run the snack bars beside the pro shop and out on the course. Over the years, experience and trial and error has produced a well oiled machine that achieves the ranking and reputation of a well organized fun tournament. Astoria Golf and Country Club intends to keep on producing top flight efforts and looks forward to playing host to the Oregon Coast Tournament when the centennial of the event rolls around in 2010.

OREGON COAST CHAMPIONS

Grand Championship Division

1910	W.B. Mixter, Waverley
1911	Russell Smith, Waverley
1912	F.J. Finucane, Spokane C.C.
1913	H.K.B. Davis, Waverley
1914	Russell Smith, Waverley
1915	Russell Smith, Waverley
1916	Russell Smith, Waverley
1917	Rudie Wilhelm, Portland Golf Club
1918	No Championship (World War I)
1919	O.F. Willing, Waverley
1920	Ercel Kay, Salem
1921	Doug Nicol, Portland Golf Club
1922	W.A. Norby, Eastmoreland
1923	Doug Nicol, Portland Golf Club
1924	W.A. Norby, Eastmoreland
1925	Richard Lang, Seattle
1926	Jack Marshall, Portland Golf Club

1927-30	No Championships
1931	William Blaufus, Eastmoreland
1932	William Blaufus, Eastmoreland
1933	Jack Paulsen, Alderwood
1934	Ed Palmrose, Astoria
1935	Wesley Berner, City View
1936	George Will, Alderwood
(A) 1937	Robert Hofer, Inverness
(A) 1938	Robert Anderson, Astoria
(A) 1939	Kay Bridge, Eastmoreland
(A) 1940	Louis Rose, Eastmoreland
(A) 1941	Robert Anderson, Astoria
1942-45	No Championships
1946	Glen Spivey, The Dalles
1947	Leon Hanset, Colwood
1948	William Johnson, Corvallis
1949	Robert Duden, Eastmoreland (Tournament moved permanently to Astoria Golf and Country Club)
1950	Elmer Hanegan, Eastmoreland
1951	James Miller, Oswego
1952	Ralph Dichter, Astoria
1953	E.R. Jones, Colwood
1954	Justin Woods, McMinnville
1955	Justin Woods, McMinnville
1956	C. Harold Weston, Jr., Portland Golf Club
1957	Don Kreiger, Columbia
1958	Ralph Dichter, Astoria
1959	Ralph Dichter, Astoria
1960	John Schlee
1961	Ralph Dichter, Astoria
1962	Stu Schroeder
1963	Robert Swingle
1964	Ralph Dichter, Astoria
1965	Ralph Dichter, Astoria
1966	Ralph Dichter, Astoria
1967	George Mack, Columbia
1968	Wimpy Sargent, Seattle Golf Club
1969	Ralph Dichter, Astoria
1970	Bob Canessa, Astoria
1971	George Mack, Columbia
1972	Jay Robinson
1973	Ralph Dichter, Astoria
1974	Ralph Dichter, Astoria
1975	Jay Robinson
1976	John Fought III, Tualatin
1977	Larry Giusti, Columbia
1978	Bill Morrison, Portland Golf Club
1979	Mitch Mooney, Astoria
1980	Jeff Leinassar, Astoria
1981	George Mack, Columbia
1982	Mike Graham, Columbia and Astoria
1983	Mike Stoll, Portland Golf Club
1984	Jeff Leinassar, Astoria
1985	George Mack, Jr., Columbia
1986	Bob Harrington, Portland Golf Club
1987	Matt Elmes, Astoria
1988	George Mack, Jr., Columbia
1989	George Mack, Jr., Columbia
1990	Mike Swingle, San Diego
1991	George Mack, Jr.
1992	Mike Adams, Columbia

Junior/Senior Division

1950	Lloyd Eckhardt
1951	Charles Shea III
1964	John Kendall
1965	George Wiese
1966	Bob Anderson
1967	Paul Prasil
1968	Jack Koenig
1969	Bob Grant
1970	Dale Fisher
1971	C. Harold Weston
1972	Steve Tiberg
1973	George Abrahamsen
1974	Jim Smead
1975	Jack Goodman
1976	Sam Tosti
1977	Jerry Driscoll
1978	Hal Light
1979	Ed Vranizan
1980	Lynn Reinholt
1981	Sev Harkson
1982	Hal Light
1983	Ralph Dichter
1984	Ralph Dichter
1985	Don Kreiger
1986	Lee Knight
1987	Lee Knight
1988	Ralph Dichter
1989	Lee Knight
1990	Mike Whitty
1991	Jon Palmberg
1992	Bob Bowen

Senior Division

1952	Millard Rosenblatt
1953	Millard Rosenblatt
1954	Ted Fleskes
1955	Ted Fleskes
1956	Ed Thompson
1957	Robert A. Henningsen
1958	Ted Fleskes
1959	Ted Fleskes
1960	R.J. Nichols
1961	Don McPike
1962	Fred Siegel
1963	Mike Stryker
1964	John Kendall
1965	Sid Williams
1966	Ford Knutsen
1967	J. Wilson Johnston
1968	Orson Kelly
1969	J. Wilson Johnston
1970	R.J. Nichols
1971	R.J. Nichols
1972	George Wiese
1973	C. Harold Weston
1974	Ed Palmrose
1975	Ed Palmrose
1976	Ernest Aiken
1977	Dr. Ed Palmrose
1978	Joe Player

1979	Willard Miller
1980	Ed Zuelke
1981	Fred Welch
1982	Merle Hanset
1983	Ed Palmrose
1984	Walter Rose
1985	C. Harold Weston
1986	Charles Starr
1987	Ray Beeber
1988	Tom Edlefsen
1989	Laddie Farrish
1990	Hal Light
1991	Roy Morgan
1992	Chet Becker

Super Senior Division

1990	Larry Johanns
1991	Larry Godsey
1992	Larry Johanns

Womens Division

1910	Mrs. R. Koehler
1911	Mrs. P. Kerr
1912	Mrs. J. Gillison
1913	Mrs. W. Skinner
1914	Mrs. C. Davis, Jr.
1915	Mrs. J. Daugherty
1916	Agnes Ford
1917	Mrs. C. Davis, Jr.
1918	No Tournament (World War I)
1919	Frances Jacobs
1920	Mrs. S. Mays
1921	Mrs. J. Daugherty
1922	Mrs. E. Kay
1923	Mrs. L. Palmer, Jr.
1924	Mrs. R. Mersereau
1925	Frances Jacobs
1926	Dorothy Shubback
1927-30	No Tournament
1931	Mrs. B. Eva
1932	Mrs. B. Eva
1933	Frances Sellars
1934	Mrs. B. Eva
1935	Muriel Veatch
1936	Nancy Hurst
(A) 1937	Nancy Hurst
(A) 1938	Nancy Hurst
(A) 1939	Jessie Miller
(A) 1940	Jessie Miller
(A) 1941	Mrs. A. Hanson
1942-45	No Tournament (World War II)
1946	Rosemary Grubbs
1947	Gracie De Moss
1948	Rosemary Grubbs
1949	Gracie De Moss
1950	Barbara Sorenson
1951	Barbara Snook
1952	Sue Rose
1953	Maud Borst
1954	Dorothy Burgess
1955	Barbara Snook

1956	Lillian Schassen
1957	Molly Murphy
1958	June Robinson
1959	Shirley Siegmund
1960	June Robinson
1961	June Robinson
1962	June Robinson
1963	Molly Cronin
1964	Molly Cronin
1965	Molly Cronin
1967	Mary Wolfe
1968	Mary Wolfe
1969	Molly Cronin
1970	Edean Ihlanfeldt
1971	Sybil Bowers
1972	Mary Swingle
1973	Mary Swingle
1974	Joan Berkis
1975	Mary Swingle
1976	Joan Berkis
1977	Ann Swanson
1978	Ann Swanson
1979	Mary Mulflur
1980	Joan Berkis
1981	Joan Berkis
1982	Monica Shepherd
1983	Joan Berkis
1984	Molly Cronin
1985	Joan Forrester
1986	Renee Mack
1987	Charisse Spada
1988	Nancy Kessler
1989	Kathy Wentworth
1990	Lara Mack
1991	Charisse Spada-Borst
1992	Lara Mack

Oregon Coast Tournament Chairmen

(Records available only from 1937)

1937	(Played at Astoria through 1941) T.B. Wilson and Roscoe Hurst
1938	Sherman Lovell
1939	Dr. Frank Fowler
1940	Roscoe Hurst
1941	Howard Bonar
1942-45	No Tournament due to World War II
1946	(Back at Gearhart) Vern Lerback
1947	Robert Holmes
1948	Vern Lerback
1949	Vern Lerback
1950	William Wilcox
1951	Tournament permanently moved to Astoria
1952	Bob Henningsen
1953	Tom R. Williams
1954	Edward Thompson
1955	Tom R. Williams
1956	Ralph Dichter
1957	Blair Henningsgaard
1958	William Wilcox
1959	Frank Berg and James Bowler
1960	William Wilcox
1961	James H. Cellars
1962	Mervyn Eward
1963	Harry Swanson
1964	Ken Simonsen
1965	Tom R. Williams
1966	Paul Baldwin
1967	J. Wilson Johnston
1968	J. Wilson Johnston
1969	J. Wilson Johnston
1970	J. Wilson Johnston
1971	Jorma Leinassar
1972	Ken Wrenn
1973	Ken Wrenn
1974	Ken Wrenn
1975	Willard Monnes
1976	Willard Monnes
1977	Ed Rippet
1978	Jorma Leinassar
1979	Ron Elmes
1980	Roger Shannon
1981	James Clune
1982	Sion Wentworth
1983	David Palmberg
1984	Del Harris
1985	Nick Zafiratos
1986	Brick Grayum
1987	Gene Low
1988	Kent Price
1989	James Clune
1990	James Clune
1991	James Clune
1992	Don Cox and Rob Mangold
1993	Sion Wentworth



Other Tournaments and Events

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is one of the better competitive events staged by the club for the enjoyment of all members regardless of handicap and ability. No definite date has been established as to when this popular event was started but current information sets the time as about 1965 or 1966. Harvey Mills and Walter Peterson are generally given credit for the idea and nursing the concept through action by the Board and a place on the yearly and monthly schedule of golf events. The date is set for the second Sunday of each month. Participants gather at 8 a.m. for a buffet breakfast. Meanwhile the Pro Shop is setting the pairings matching up low and high handicaps in foursomes designed to equalize play among all those playing as teams. There is an unwritten rule that no one can name his own partner, or partners, and this tends to eliminate cliques and promotes new friends and fellowship among the membership. Normally well over 100 members turn out for this monthly event. Play begins with a shotgun start and there is always some sort of a best ball competition usually revolving around the play of the four man team. There are snacks after golf and awarding of prizes. And in December of each year the Breakfast Club hosts an annual party which is one of the social highlights of the year. Truly a fun event and a fixed and popular feature of the annual schedule of the club.

Retired Golfers

The Retired Golfers was started in 1978 to include those who have left the workaday world and have golf as their main hobby. The group has no written rules, no officers and only relies on a volunteer chairman to keep the play on an even keel. Those participating often remark that they have reserved the privilege of retiring anyone for a day and this results in some players participating who are still engaged in occupations, trades or professions. Meeting in the clubhouse once each month for coffee and rolls they await the pairings as set up by the pro shop. Again, one cannot select his partner so this results again in a "mixer" type of golf play which results in many new friendships. The age group represented also provides for a level of play compatible with the older golfers. At one time an average was struck to show that the handicap norm was twenty-one. There is a shotgun start for the better than fifty normal players. Such competition as long drive and KP's are judged on age groups rather than handicaps and some type of team oriented best ball play is the order of the day. Most players in the event are in their 60's and 70's with even a few 80 year olds joining the fun. Very early it was learned that Willamette Valley C.C. and Oswego Lake had similar retired groups. So home and home series were arranged with these clubs which have now become traditional events in the yearly schedule.

Club Championships

Like most other golf clubs Astoria holds an annual tournament to determine the club champions. There are not only the men's and women's division but also categories for junior boys and girls and seniors. You will find the pictures of the current champions mounted on the wall of the entrance foyer.

The early records of the club fail to list those who won the club championships. There are newspaper accounts showing that Bill Palmberg, still going in his 80's, won several of the annual competitions in the years between 1929-1939. The trophy case reveals the following winners of the men's championships:

Men's Club Champions

1960	Frank Maize	1977	Bob Canessa
1961	Ralph Dichter	1978	Jeff Leinassar
1962	Frank Maize	1979	Jeff Leinassar
1963	Ralph Dichter	1980	Ralph Dichter
1964	Ralph Dichter	1981	Jeff Leinassar
1965	Ralph Dichter	1982	Fred Smith
1966	Rich Schroeder	1983	Jeff Leinassar
1967	Ralph Dichter	1984	Don Sheldon
1968	Bob Wolsborn	1985	Matt Elmes
1969	Jim McNeeley	1986	Mike Graham
1970	Ron Wells	1987	Steve Warren
1971	Bob Bowen	1988	Jay McCallister
1972	Mike Graham	1989	Jeff Leinassar
1973	Mike Graham	1990	Don Sheldon
1974	Russ Swanson	1991	Greg Marshall
1975	Jeff Leinassar	1992	Greg Marshall
1976	Ralph Dichter		



**Greg Marshall,
1992 Men's
Club Champion**



**Cathy Leinassar,
1992 Women's
Club Champion**

Women's Club Champions

1963	Eunice Manion	1978	Cathy Leinassar
1964	Mary Knutsen	1979	Barbara Brown
1965	Anne Barbey	1980	Jeanie Vasey
1966	Anne Barbey	1981	Greta Thompson
1967	Eunice Manion	1982	Barbara Brown
1968	Anne Barbey	1983	Jeanie Vasey
1969	Jane Keeler	1984	Jeanie Vasey
1970	Sybil Bowers	1985	Barbara Brown
1971	Jean Bowers	1986	Barbara Brown
1972	Anne Barbey	1987	Cathy Leinassar
1973	Anne Barbey	1988	Jeanie Vasey
1974	Jane Keeler	1989	Bev McCallister
1975	Cathy Leinassar	1990	Jeanie Vasey
1976	Cathy Leinassar	1991	Jeanie Vasey
1977	Jane Keeler	1992	Cathy Leinassar

Women's Activities of AG&CC

During the early years of golf at Astoria, a group of women found it necessary to establish an organization that would promote and direct golf and social activities for the ladies of Astoria Golf and Country Club. From this beginning emerged our present day organization.

Every Tuesday morning, throughout the year, women of Astoria gather to compete for prizes, on the golf course, at the bridge tables or both. In addition to the competition and comradery of weekly play, and the friendliness and fun of exchange days, grandmothers tournament, past presidents and past team captains tournament, our Spring partner tournament, Fall handicap tournament, Winter tournament and womens club championship tournaments provide elaborate competitions and celebrations for truly the best golfers.

With current membership at 157 women, it became necessary to establish Tuesday play groups by handicaps. We have six groups, all on the course every Tuesday, plus every year one of these groups hosts our annual stagette, complete with food, fun and entertainment. We're extremely proud of the sponsorship, participation and encouragement afforded to our junior golfers. However, the fastest growing of our six groups is our nine hole ladies group.

In addition to golfing activities, the womens group remains very active in the social activities of the Club. Every month, ladies are found enjoying a beautiful luncheon along with a full day of cards or table games. A six week bridge tournament is one of the most popular winter activities, although fall and spring are highlighted by a state of the art luncheon and fashion show.

Today, having an opportunity to use a golf course as magnificent as Astoria seven days a week makes women's golf at Astoria truly unique.

Leslie Dichter

The golfing season begins for the members of the Women of Astoria with an opening breakfast and a general meeting usually in April. We have 18 hole tournament play every Tuesday through October 31st. There are three major tournaments; a Spring Best Ball, a Championship Tournament and the Fall Handicap Tournament. There is also Eclectic Tournament play every Tuesday during the golf season.

On many Tuesdays we also will have a trophy play such as the Anderson Trophy, OWGA Trophy, President's Memorial and the Trans-National Trophy. Once a month there is a Putt Pot play and on selected days, other than Tuesday, we also have a Grandmother's Tournament, a Past President's Play, OWGA and OSWGA play and an Exchange Day with Longview Country Club, Rock Creek and Forest Hills.

There is an active nine hole group under the direction of Verna Davis. We also give sponsorship and encouragement to a program of golf activities for children under the age of eighteen years which is directed by Marion Palmberg and Janet Smith.

The last Tuesday in October completes the tournament season with a Stagette which is a day of golf, games, luncheon and an entertainment presented by a selected group of ladies each year.

From November 1st until the middle of March there is a nine hole winter tournament for those who want to play, weather permitting.

Louise Spence

The nine hole golf group has been organized for women members of the club who are beginners, or for more advanced lady golfers who desire to play only nine holes each Tuesday. As the beginners improve and play well enough they have the choice of moving up into the 18 hole players.

The group has their own coordinator to make sure that everything runs smoothly. They tee off each Tuesday morning as soon as all the 18 holers have gone off. They play the same calendar schedule for the year that the 18 holers do.

Each year there is a Spring and Fall Sweepstakes Tourney for only 9 hole players. Also at the end of the year they receive the special awards for the best putting, most chip-ins, ecclectics, etc. The most improved player also receives a trophy.

At the beginning of the season the group does participate in free group lessons on three consecutive Tuesdays. The nine hole members are always welcome to



Astoria Golf and Country Club Women's Past Presidents and Team Captains, 1984

Front Row: Elsie Maize, Jeane Knutsen, Lucille Long, Barb Canessa, Jean Collins, Ellie Wentworth.

Middle Row: Ellen Kindred, Ruth Williams, June Daggatt Young, Frankye Thompson, Edith Henningsgaard Miller, Anne McGowan, Carol Stroup.

Back Row: Bea Cederberg White, Anne Barbey, Charlene Palmer, Nancy Lowe, Jeanie Mogensen, Myrtle Paulsen, Gwynn Bakkensen, Bobbie McCallister, Laina Burns, Mary Rippet, Alice Niemi, Rosemary Stevenson, Helen Gillard, Bid Lynch, Lou Sayer, Fern Morse Reynolds, Dorothy Eward, Babe Price.



Astoria Golf and Country Club Women's Past Presidents and Team Captains, 1988

Front Row: Bid Lynch, Laina Burns, Eleanor Wentworth, Barbara Canessa, Marge Cox, Gwynn Bakkensen, Dorothy Boyle, Liz O'Donnell, Barbara Foster, Bev McCallister.

Back Row: Babe Price, Lucille Long, Frankye Thompson, Rosemary Stevenson, Carol Stroup, Myrtle Paulsen, Elsie Maize, Mary Rippet, Lou Sayer.

attend the special social parties put on by The Women of Astoria Golf and Country Club.

The nine hole golfers have a Fun Day each year. The days play is full of all sorts of crazy plays as well as unusual equipment to play with. Only nine hole players take part in this. The group also has a Play Away Day. The course they wish to play is chosen by them. After play they all have lunch together at some special place.

Group Goals:

1. Establish a handicap.
2. Learn to keep correct score cards.
3. Become acquainted with other lady golfers in the club.
4. Familiarize each player with the game of golf and its rules.
5. Observe course and play etiquette.
6. Know how to post their scores.
7. Learn how to make golf a fun game.

Verna Davis

Women's Association Team Captains

1960	Margaret Hendrickson
1961	Yoie Swails
1962	Eunie Manion
1963-64	Ferne Morse
1965-66	Jeane Knutsen
1967	Laina Burns
1968	Ellen Kindred
1969	Rosemary Stevenson
1970	Edith Henningsgaard
1971	Anne Barbey
1972	Selma Matthews
1973	Mary Rippet
1974	Gwynn Bakkensen
1975	Charlene Palmer
1976	Lucille Long
1977	Bobbie McCallister
1978	Barbara Canessa
1979	Jean Collins
1980	Carol Stroup
1981	Marilou Sayer
1982	Jean Clune
1983	Bea White
1984	Bid Lynch
1985	Vi Lund
1986	Barbara Foster
1987	Bev Kostelnock McCallister
1988	Marge Cox
1989	Babe Price
1990	Dorothy Niebuhr
1991	Louise Spence
1992	Jeanie Vasey
1993	Gayle Palmberg

Women's Past Presidents

1926-28	Mrs. R.R. Bartlett
1929	Mrs. Luke Sassnett
1930	Mrs. Lance Spalding
1931	No President (Mrs. Hampton, Team Captain, in charge)
1932	Mrs. Hampton
1933-34	Mrs. Sherman Lovell
1935-36	Mrs. J.T. Allen
1937	Mrs. A. Van Dusen
1938	Mrs. Frank Vincil
1939	Mrs. Abbie Wright
1940-46	Mrs. Dave Lawson
1947	Alta Rones
1948	Ferne Morse
1949	Dorothy Burgess
1950	Dorothy Eward
1951	Doris Holmes
1952	Ann McGowan
1953	Mrs. Mayo
1954	Grace Sandoz
1955	Alice Niemi
1956	Nancy Lowe
1960-61	Helen Gillard
1962	Coila Morfitt
1963	Anne Barbey
1964	Ruth Williams
1965	Laina Burns
1966	Elsie Maize
1967-68	Bea Cederberg
1969	Bea Day
1970	Myrtle Paulsen
1971	Margaret Bruneau
1972-73	Ellen Kindred
1974	Edith Henningsgaard
1975	June Daggatt
1976	Frankye Thompson
1977	Carol Stroup
1978	Adele Wood
1979	Gwynn Bakkensen
1980	Eleanor Wentworth
1981	Jean Collins
1982	Barbara Canessa
1983	Babe Price
1984	Lucille Long
1985	Elizabeth O'Donnell
1986	Rosemary Stevenson
1987	Helen Flatt
1988	Dorothy Boyle
1989	Marilou Sayer
1990	Charlotte Lawrence
1991	Leslie Dichter
1992	Marge Cox
1993	Linda Salfen

Ridgerunners

Most golf clubs call this their mixed two ball but the unique layout of the Astoria club has claimed a name typifying the terrain of our oceanside links. Here we are known as the Ridgerunners. This is a man and woman event held each week during the summer months and played under Chapman rules, either full or modified. Play involves husband and wife or chosen partners. Starting time is late afternoon after most of the rest of the play on the course has ended. Pairings are made by the pro shop and it is part of the fun that no one can pick the group with which they will play in that day's competition. This provides a genuine "mixer" type of event and many are the new friendships formed in this informal golf play. The rules of the event limit play with one's own partner to the first appearance of that couple for the season. And not until the final championship of the Ridgerunners in early September may one again play with his husband or wife or other partner. A buffet dinner follows each week's play and a gala party ends the season on the day of the championship.

Mixed Two Ball

The annual Astoria Mixed Two Ball, held in June of each year is one of the more popular events of the golf and social calendar. As its name implies it is a man and woman event held on a Saturday and Sunday. Astoria members have the privilege of inviting guests to join them in the play and many have found this an excellent vehicle to repay social obligations or to introduce their friends to our golf course. After golf there is a lavish dinner followed by a dance.

Junior Golf

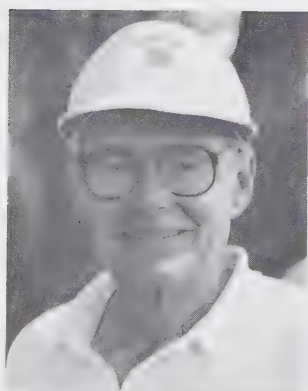
Astoria Country Club believes in Junior Golf. There is early reference in Board meetings of the 20's in which action was taken to allow free play of school children of the North Coast. Today's Junior Golf Program comes on Monday mornings shortly after school is out for the summer. The entire course is set aside until noon for the Junior play. Those participating are the children and grandchildren of our members. A host of volunteers are enlisted to organize and supervise the play and the field is divided into age groups and according to experience and ability. At the end of the season some weeks later prizes are awarded and it is the usual practice that each aspiring golfer receives some sort of memento for his or her endeavor over the past few weeks.

In addition to the Junior Golf program the club has opened its facilities each year to the golf teams of the area high schools. Thus the course is used for both practice and for the regular play of the leagues in which the school is enrolled. A similar privilege is extended to the local Community College when a golf team is fielded by that institution.

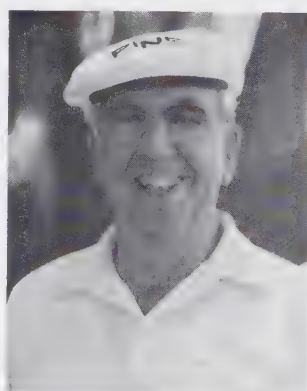
Golf Organizations

In addition to these local events Astorians are members of the various organized golf groups of the State of Oregon. In most years some or all of these groups are guests of our course and our members have a similar privilege at the other clubs who share a membership. For men there are the Oregon Seniors and Oregon Junior-Seniors as well as the Western Oregon Seniors. Women have the Oregon Women's Golf Association and the Oregon Senior Women's Golf Association.

Other 1992 Club Champions



Seniors Champion
Dick Leonard



Super Seniors Champion
Larry Johanns



Junior Champion
Toni Dean



Junior Champion
Jeff Wright

In Conclusion...

To the founders of our club we owe a great debt of gratitude. We are the recipients of their vision, courage and commitment.

Now to the late Dr. Jorma Leinassar and our long-time member Stanley Church we express special thanks for their tireless efforts to develop and document the history of Astoria Golf and Country Club from its beginning to date.

Over a period of many years Jorma collected numerous records and significant memorabilia. His efforts were not in vain. In November 1990 the Board of Directors, recognizing his expertise as a historian, requested Stan to undertake the task for formally developing the club's history. Literally two years were required to review the material gathered by Jorma plus reviewing all Board records from inception – a tedious and complicated task. A number of members assisted in putting together missing pieces of the records including those destroyed by fire.

Stan has completed his assignment and the club's interesting history is now available for the membership. We need not forget our roots.

— Rob Mangold

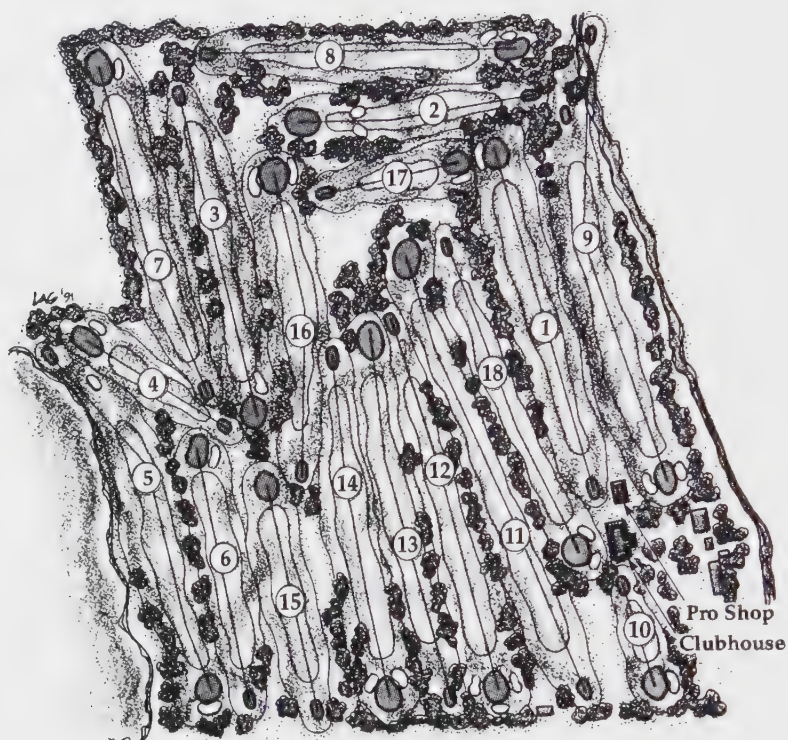


Stan Church

About the Author...

Stan Church is a product of Washington State University and Northwestern College of Law. His lifetime hobby has been the history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. He authored a history of Clatsop Plains Pioneer Presbyterian Church and is a frequent contributor to Cumtux, the magazine of the Clatsop County Historical Society. In 1989 Stan was co-author of the 150-year history of his college fraternity, Beta Theta Pi. A former attorney, now retired, he and his wife Gladys live across the road from the 6th tee of AG&CC.

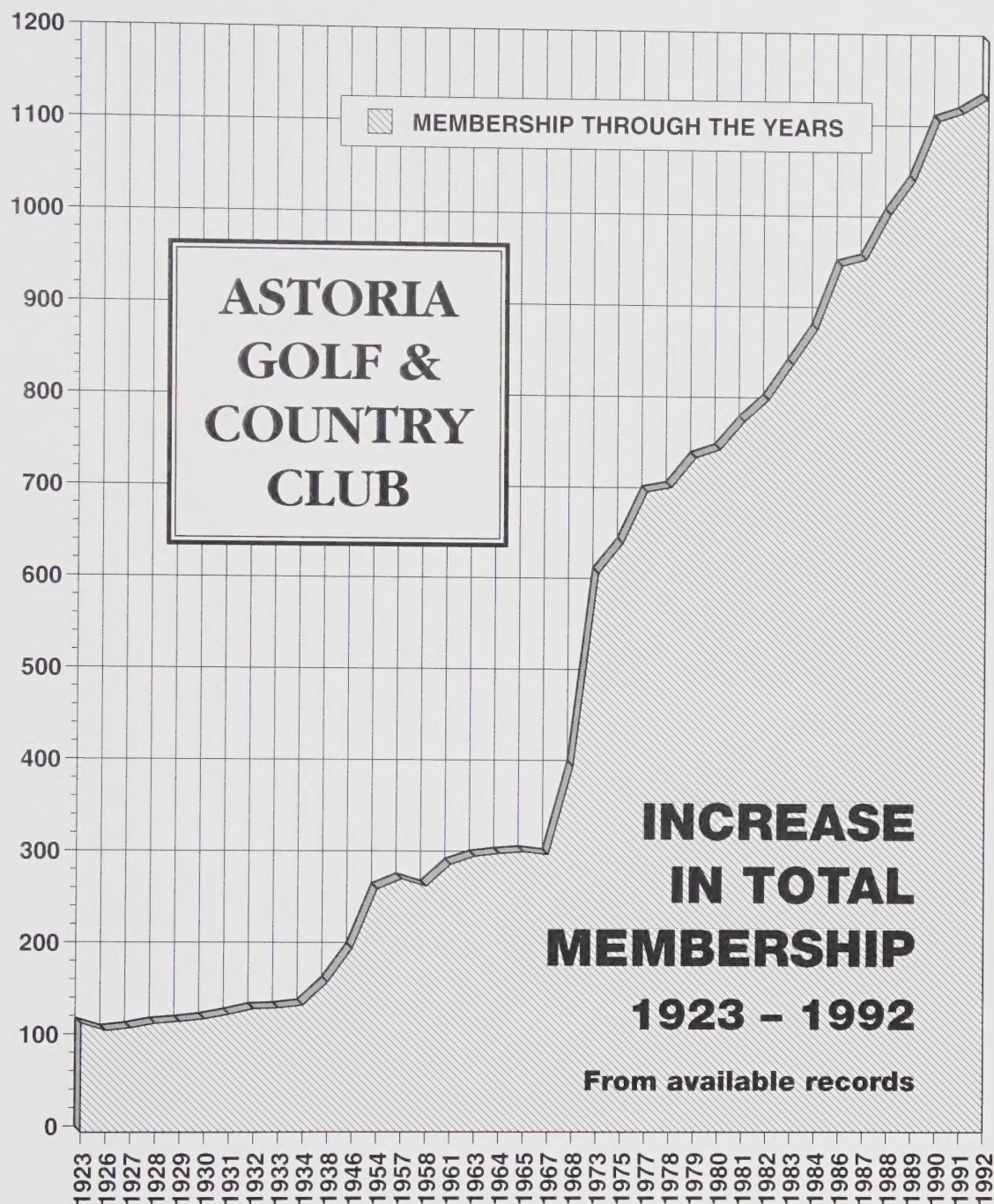
The Golf Course in 1993



CHAMPIONSHIP YARDS	402	278	378	190	427	308	406	360	521	3270
MEN'S YARDS	398	273	374	189	423	301	401	358	511	3228
MEN'S PAR	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	5	36
MEN'S HANDICAP	(7)	(17)	(11)	(13)	(1)	(15)	(3)	(8)	(5)	
HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT
WOMEN'S YARDS	381	269	367	176	406	291	394	268	477	3029
WOMEN'S PAR	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	37
WOMEN'S HANDICAP	(5)	(15)	(3)	(17)	(7)	(13)	(9)	(11)	(1)	

USGA COURSE RATING: Championship 71.1/124 Men 70.6/123 Women 72.8/115

CH YDS	129	540	470	416	444	269	355	179	416	3218	3270	6488
M YDS	117	538	454	413	436	267	343	174	410	3152	3228	6380
M PAR	3	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	36	36	72
M HDCP	(18)	(2)	(12)	(6)	(4)	(14)	(10)	(16)	(8)			
HOLE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	OUT	TOT
W YDS	105	444	439	395	425	182	339	167	368	2864	3029	5893
W PAR	3	5	5	5	5	3	4	3	4	37	37	74
W HDCP	(18)	(6)	(4)	(8)	(2)	(14)	(10)	(16)	(12)			





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